MINARI ENDOU

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MARIA ✝ HOLIC

MARIA†HOLIC

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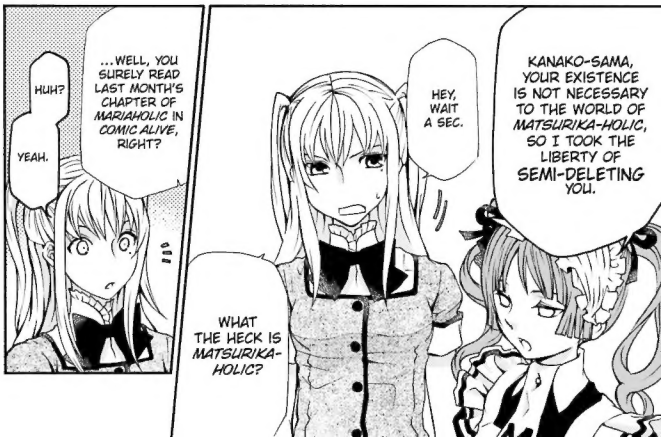
MARIA ✝ HOLIC

HAPPY!
PRETTY!
SWEET AS CANDY!
COULD THIS BE THE START OF A PULSE-POUNDING, HEART-WARMING NEW SERIES FROM MINARI-SENSEI-CHAMA?
MATSURIKA HOLIC

ONE PAGE IN AND YOU'RE ALREADY BEING CRUEL, MARIYA.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
How rude!
YOU'RE THE ONE WITH A STRANGE FACE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
BOTH OF YOUR FACES LOOK REALLY STRANGE.
...

I KNOW I'VE HAD SOME BRUSH-INS WITH THE LAW, BUT I DON'T NEED WITNESS PROTECTION!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!


...WELL, YOU SURELY READ LAST MONTH'S CHAPTER OF *MARIAHOLIC* IN *COMIC ALIVE*, RIGHT?
HUH?
YEAH.
KANAKO-SAMA, YOUR EXISTENCE IS NOT NECESSARY TO THE WORLD OF *MATSURIKA-HOLIC*, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SEMI-DELETING YOU.
HEY, WAIT A SEC.
WHAT THE HECK IS *MATSURIKA-HOLIC*?

THEN YOU MUST'VE SEEN THAT MARIAHOLIC WAS SCHEDULED TO BE ON BREAK THIS MONTH.
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MONTH IS THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL.
C'mon, just draw your manga and everyone will be happy! We don't want trouble!
Caution! If you don't draw, we're gonna scoop your eyeballs out with a spoon!
SO, THE ANNOYING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF INSISTED THAT THE AUTHOR DRAW SOMETHING... EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A SINGLE PAGE.

*THIS IS A TRUE STORY.

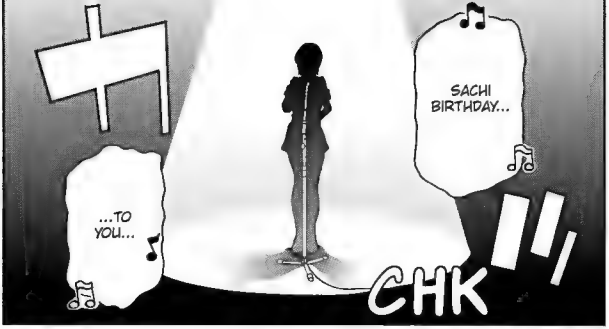
HOWEVER, IF THEY PUBLISHED A CHAPTER WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD BE TAKING A BREAK, IT WOULD RUIN THE REPUTATION OF THE MAGAZINE.
IN SHORT, MATSURIKA-HOLIC IS THE SOLUTION TO THEIR DILEMMA.
THEY EVEN MADE A NEW LOGO AND EVERYTHING. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
MUST'VE BEEN A PAIN FOR THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER.
I DOUBT IT WAS A PROBLEM.
THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER HAS AN EXQUISITE SENSE OF HUMOR. HE EVEN PURCHASED THE MARIAHOLIC ANIME.
HE WAS PROBABLY DELIGHTED TO BE IN ON THE MISCHIEF.

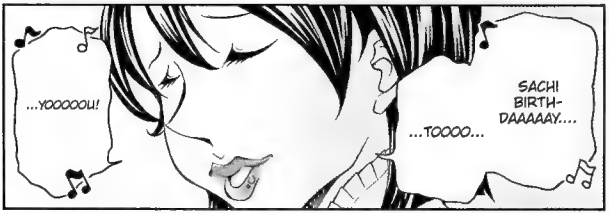
THIS ISN'T A ONE-SHOT. IT'S A PREVIEW.
YOU ALREADY HAVE THE MATSURIKA DIARIES! YOU DON'T NEED YOUR OWN SERIES!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I'M COMPLETELY DELETED...
DEAR MOTHER AND FATHER BACK HOME...
PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MATSURIKA-HOLIC.

MUST BE NICE.
...HE ...HE COULDN'T FINISH THE SENTENCE WITHOUT BURSTING INTO LAUGHTER.
THE EDITOR IN CHIEF THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY, TOO. WHEN HE CALLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE LOGO WAS COMPLETE...
YEAH, MUST BE—
WAIT! NOW HALF MY BODY IS DELETED!

I'M NOT.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO END IT?
SO, THIS MATSURIKA-HOLIC OF YOURS...
HUH?

Prayer32
Sachi Birthday to You


SACHI BIRTHDAY...
...TO YOU...
CHK

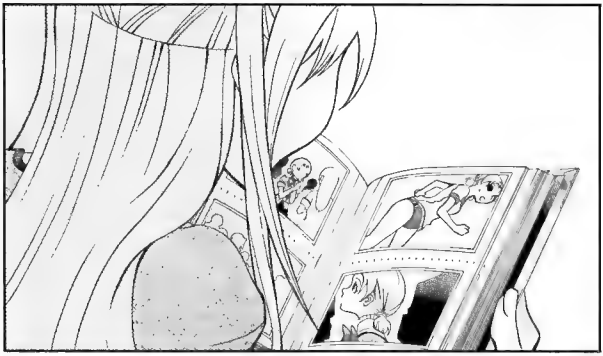

...YOOOOOU!
SACHI BIRTH-DAAAAAY....
...TOOOO...

I CAN BE NICE, BUT IT'LL COST YOU EXTRA.
MATSURIKA-SAN, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO CRUEL?
YOU REALLY HATE MARILYN MONROE, HUH?
YOU SHOULD GO TO HEAVEN AND ASK FOR FORGIVE-NESS

SACHI BIRTHDAY, DEAR—
SODOM!
BONK
SHUT UP.

DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN....
MY FIRST SEMESTER SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY, BUT IT'S FINALLY COMING TO AN END.
ANYWAY...
WE'RE HAVING A LITTLE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR SACHI-SAN AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONIES TODAY.
OOF
OH, SO IT'S THAT SEASON ALREADY, HUH?
HUH? SEASON?
YEAH.
MOMOI SACHI'S BIRTHDAY IS ON JULY 27TH. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER VACATION.
POOF!
MEW
Sachi birthday to you
SINCE THE STUDENTS HERE GO HOME FOR THE SUMMER, IT'S HARD FOR ALL OF HER FRIENDS TO GET TOGETHER FOR HER BIRTHDAY.
THAT'S WHY WE HOLD AN EARLY BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR HER AFTER THE END-OF-SEMESTER CEREMONY.
WOW.
I NEVER KNEW SACHI-SAN WAS SO POPULAR!
OF COURSE. AFTER ALL, SHE'S COMPASSIONATE ENOUGH TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU, KANAKO-SAMA...AND YOU'RE THE HUMAN EQUIVALENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE.
THAT'S THE SORT OF KINDNESS THAT GETS YOU SAINTED BY THE VATICAN.

YOINK
WHAT'S THIS?
HEY! DON' GET YOUR FINGERPRINTS ON IT!
FLIP FLIP FLIP
Der her!
SHE'S REALLY CUTE, TOO!
HERE, LOOK!



SHE'S A VOYEUR...
THAT'S THE SACHI-SAN EDITION... OF COURSE, I HAVE THEM FOR OTHER GIRLS, TOO!
DO YOU BRING A CAMERA TO SCHOOL?
OH, NO.

THIS MP3 PLAYER TAKES PHOTOS WITHOUT THOSE NOISY SHUTTER SOUNDS.

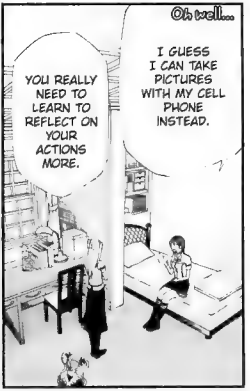
...
DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME, KIDS.

SHE WAS DOING YOU A FAVOR.
MATSURIKA-SAN IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE VIOLENT LATELY.
YOU COULD BE SUED FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGE-MENT.

KLONK
I SURE AM GLAD I BROUGHT MY IPO—
GOMORRAH!!

ANYWAY, I'M CONFISCATING IT.
WHAT?! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
VOYEURISM IS A CRIME!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THE ALBUM IN YOUR HEART.

UGH. DON'T TURN IT INTO A CATCHPHRASE.
A CHARMING PHILOSOPHY, DON'T YOU THINK?
NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER LOOK BACK! NEVER FALTER!
TWEEDLE
THE FACT THAT IT'S CATCHY MAKES IT EVEN MORE ANNOYING.
DEE!


Oh well...
I GUESS I CAN TAKE PICTURES WITH MY CELL PHONE INSTEAD.
YOU REALLY NEED TO LEARN TO REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS MORE.

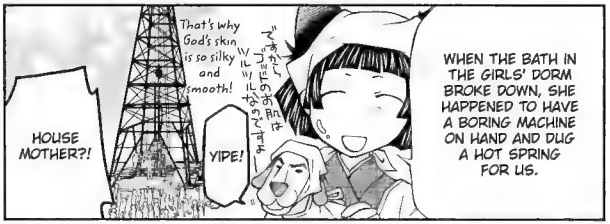
DONG
DIIING
I CAN'T WAIT!
I BET SACHI'S PARTY WILL BE AS CUTE AND FUN AS SHE IS!

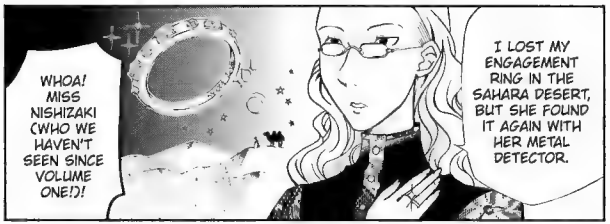
SAAACH! BIRTHDAY...
SACHI BIRTHDAY...
...DEAR MOMOI SAAACHIIII...
SACHI BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
SACHI BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

YAAAAY!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...YOOOOU!
TOOOO...

WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY WE'RE CELEBRATING THE HOLY DAY THAT SACHI-SAN WAS PUT ON THIS EARTH.
...DO I FEEL SO LEFT OUT?
AND WHY...
THIS FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS OR SOMETHING.

MATH CLASS !
KIRI-SAN?!
MOMO SACHI
THEY SAY THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHOSE GRADES HAVE BEEN SALVAGED BY HER SACHI NOTES IS IN THE HUNDREDS.


HOUSE MOTHER?!
That's why God's skin is so silky and smooth!
YIPE!
WHEN THE BATH IN THE GIRLS' DORM BROKE DOWN, SHE HAPPENED TO HAVE A BORING MACHINE ON HAND AND DUG A HOT SPRING FOR US.


WHOA! MISS NISHIZAKI (WHO WE HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE VOLUME ONE!)!
I LOST MY ENGAGEMENT RING IN THE SAHARA DESERT, BUT SHE FOUND IT AGAIN WITH HER METAL DETECTOR.

WHO ARE YOU?!
DANGER
Radiation risk
SHE SAVED MY COUNTRY FROM A RADIOACTIVE MELTDOWN!

MOMOI SACHI...
SHE SHOWS KINDNESS TO EVERYONE IN THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION OR CREED.
IT'S NO WONDER SHE'S NUMBER THREE IN THE WORLDWIDE "SWEETIE PIE" RANKING.
HONOKA-SAN!
SHFF
WAIT A SECOND, WORLDWIDE WHAT?
THANKS TO HER, I WAS ABLE TO FIND A RELIABLE PLACE TO BUY KEIJI SALMON!
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD'VE PROMOTED HER TO RANK TWO AT LEAST.
NANDAROU'S CORNER
WHAT ARE KEIJI SALMON?
THEY'RE A WHITE SALMON CAUGHT MOSTLY IN SHIRETOKO AND ABASHIRI, HOKKAIDO. ONLY ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN THOUSAND SALMON IS A KEIJI SALMON. AS A RESULT, THEY'RE VALUED AS A RARE DELICACY!
I SMELL PROFITS!
Grin
Eee!
Unnn
THANKS FOR THROWING SUCH A HUGE PARTY FOR ME, GUYS!
I WANTED TO BE COOL AND MAKE A BIG SPEECH OR WHATEVER...
...BUT NOW I'M ALL EMOTIONAL AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

Sigh...
I KNEW SHE WAS CUTE, BUT I NEVER REALIZED SHE WAS SO POPULAR!
AH, MY DEAR SACHI-SAN!
MIYAMAE-SAN?

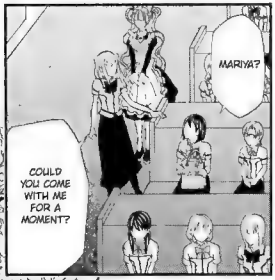
You weren't reading my mind, were you...
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU GET HER?

I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU.
YOU CAN DO IT, SACHI-SAN!
MUCH OBLIGED.
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
WAIT...SHE KNOWS THAT GUY, TOO?
YUZURU-SAN IS LIKE A PARENT WATCHING HER KID IN A SCHOOL PLAY.

WHY'D YOU DRAG ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
SHOW IT TO ME.
HUH?

OH, THE PRESENT?
KANAKO-SAN.
I GOT HER—

I SAID, GIMME THE PRESENT!
TUG
AH!


MARIYA?
COULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT?

YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
...
I'M GOING TO CHECK WHAT YOU GOT FOR HER.
NOOO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
FLING
I HAD TO CUT BACK ON LUNCH TO PAY FOR IT.
COSPLAY LINGERIE DOESN'T COME CHEAP, YOU KNOW!
FLAP FLAP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
SHMP SHMP
IT'S THE "SWEET LITTLE DEVIL" SET!
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT'S CALLED.
THE SOFT FUR WILL ADD VOLUME TO HER BUST.
TOO MUCH INFORMATION!

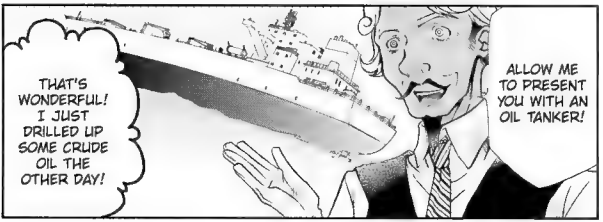
WHY?!
I PICKED IT OUT JUST FOR HER! IT'S PERFECT FOR MAXIMIZING HER CUTENESS!
DO YOU WANT TO BE BURIED ALIVE? BECAUSE I COULD ARRANGE IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY PRESENT?!
I'M CONFISCATING IT.
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP

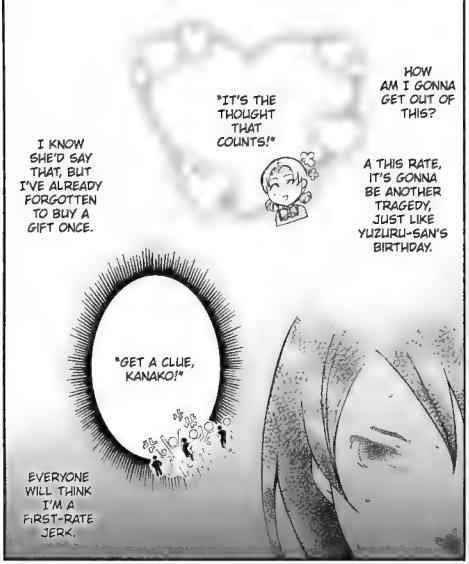
THANK YOU SO MUCH, NANAMI-CHAN!
I WAS JUST THINKING I NEEDED ONE OF THESE IN CASE AN ELECTRONICS FIRE BROKE OUT!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOMOI-SAN.
I BOUGHT YOU A CO2 FIRE EXTINGUISHER.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A FREAK, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN FORCE YOUR TASTES ON SOMEONE ELSE.
I'LL RETURN IT FOR YOU, SO YOU GO BACK TO THE PARTY.
BUT...

I GOT YOU A FAN BELT AND ENGINE OIL.
THANK YOU! I WAS JUST THINKING OF RE-VAMPING THE TOFU SHOP'S PANDA TRUENO!

I RECALL YOU MENTIONING THAT YOU WANTED A GEIGER COUNTER... MOMOI-SAN...
OH, YES! SO I CAN MEASURE RADIATION!

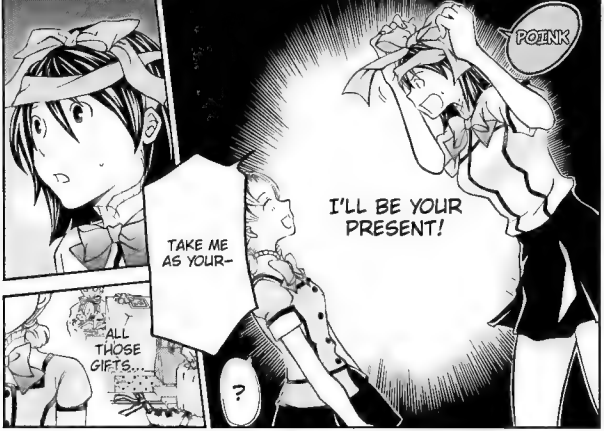
THIS IS A NARCOTICS DETECTION DOG!
HYAN!
THANK YOU! I CAN USE HIM TO SNIFF OUT SOME PICKLED KONBU! IT'S SO HARD TO COME BY THESE DAYS.


ALLOW ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH AN OIL TANKER!
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I JUST DRILLED UP SOME CRUDE OIL THE OTHER DAY!


"IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS!"
HOW AM I GONNA GET OUT OF THIS?
I KNOW SHE'D SAY THAT, BUT I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN TO BUY A GIFT ONCE.
A THIS RATE, IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER TRAGEDY, JUST LIKE YUZURU-SAN'S BIRTHDAY.
"GET A CLUE, KANAKO!"
EVERYONE WILL THINK I'M A FIRST-RATE JERK.

Ugh...
EVERYONE'S GIVING HER SUCH AWESOME STUFF.
MY "SWEET LITTLE DEVIL" SET WOULD'VE BEEN A HIT TOO, THOUGH! THIS IS ALL MARIYA'S FAULT.

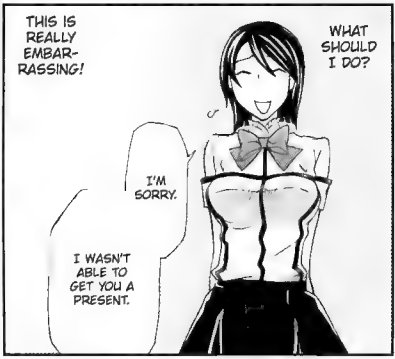
NNGH!
HER SMILE IS AS BRIGHT AS A SUN-FLOWER!
KANAKO-CHAN, YOU CAME TOO!
I'M SO HAPPY!
BUT IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING...
SHWIP
DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES...
MEW POO!?


POINK
I'LL BE YOUR PRESENT!
TAKE ME AS YOUR-
?
ALL THOSE GIFTS...

DID I DO THAT?
...THEY GAVE HER THINGS THAT THEY KNEW WOULD MAKE HER SMILE.
BECAUSE HER FRIENDS CARE FOR HER SO MUCH...
THEY'RE ALL THINGS THAT SACHI-SAN LOVES.
A TANKER, A FAN BELT, A GEIGER COUNTER...
WELL...I *DID* PICK IT OUT BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON HER...
BUT I THINK IT WAS MORE ABOUT MY DESIRE THAN HERS, TO BE HONEST.
OOO.

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
KANAKO-CHAN...

"JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A FREAK IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN FORCE YOUR TASTE ON SOMEONE ELSE."
DAMN IT! MARIYA'S RIGHT.
THEY SAY "GIVE A GIFT YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE..."
BUT EVEN I WOULDN'T WANT THE "SWEET LITTLE DEVIL" SET.
THIS IS A BAD TIME FOR SUCH A SOBERING LESSON.
I'M...
HM?


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THIS IS REALLY EMBARRASSING!
I'M SORRY.
I WASN'T ABLE TO GET YOU A PRESENT.

WHAT'S WRONG, KANAKO-CHAN?
KANAKO-CHAN?

SACHI BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
SACHI BIRTHDAY TO YOU.
SACHI...
...BIRTHDAY...
...DEAR...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR SACHI-SAN, I COULDN'T HAVE BECOME MORE THAN A CLASSMATE (BUT LESS THAN A FRIEND) WITH THE LOVELY KIRI-SAN.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR SACHI-SAN, I WOULDN'T HAVE BECOME CLASS REP AND HAD FUN WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
HUH?
THIS IS GETTING MORE AND MORE DEPRESSING.
WHEN I WAS A NERVOUS WRECK ON MY FIRST DAY, SHE OFFERED TO BE MY FRIEND.
WHEN MY STOMACH WAS GROWLING DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY, SHE GAVE ME SOME CANDY.
SHE MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I COULD REALLY MAKE IT HERE.
I'm keeping them as a memento!
IT'S HOT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SACHI-SAN HAS BEEN KINDER TO ME THAN ANYONE ELSE AT AME NO KISAKI.

SA-SA-SA-SA-SACHI-SAN?!
I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU!
AH MAN...
I HAVEN'T DONE A GOOD THING FOR MEIN RETURN.
THERE YOU ARE, KANAKO-CHAN!!
I'M SO SORRY!
I...
THANK YOU!!
HUH?
MY PRIVATE SACHI-SAN COLLECTION!
BUT THAT'S ...
HOW COME SHE HAS IT.?
I GAVE IT TO HER.
I GOT YOUR PRESENT! I LOVE IT!
にゃ
ぽっ
MEW POOF!

MARIYA !!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO HONOR HER BIRTHDAY THAN TO GIVE HER AN ALBUM OF PHOTOS...
...MEMORIALIZING THIS PAST YEAR OF HER LIFE.
THEY'RE ALL SO NATURAL, AS IF THE SUBJECT HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS BEING PHOTOGRAPHED.
YOU TOOK THE TIME TO MAKE IT, BUT WERE ASHAMED TO GIVE IT TO HER...
...SINCE YOU STARTED COMPARING IT TO ALL HER OTHER PRESENTS.
HUH?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
UH...
I...I GUESS SO.
I'M SAVED!
WHEN DID YOU TAKE ALL THESE PICTURES?
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL!
THAT'S KIND OF THE IDEA...
I'M SO HAPPY!
I'LL TREASURE IT FOREVER!
...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT...

PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.
I DON'T DESERVE SUCH A SWEET SMILE FROM HER.
PLEASE DON'T BE SO HAPPY.
AH!
WAIT A SEC, SACHI-SAN...
SHFF
EVERYONE'S WAITING.
LET'S GO BACK AND HAVE SOME CAKE!!
"I DIDN'T GET YOU A DECENT PRESENT."
"I TOOK VOYEURISTIC PHOTOS TO SATISFY MY PERVERSITY."
WHAT WILL TELLING HER THAT ACCOMPLISH? WHO WILL THAT MAKE HAPPY?
WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM TELLING HER THE TRUTH?
MATSURIKA-SAN, CRUEL AS USUAL...
YOU MAY FEEL A BIT BETTER FOR TELLING HER THE TRUTH...
AND MOMOI-SAMA WILL PROBABLY SMILE AND FORGIVE YOU...
BUT WILL EITHER OF YOU REALLY BE HAPPY?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN'T BE FORGIVEN WITH AN APOLOGY ALONE.
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT, KANAKO-SAMA.

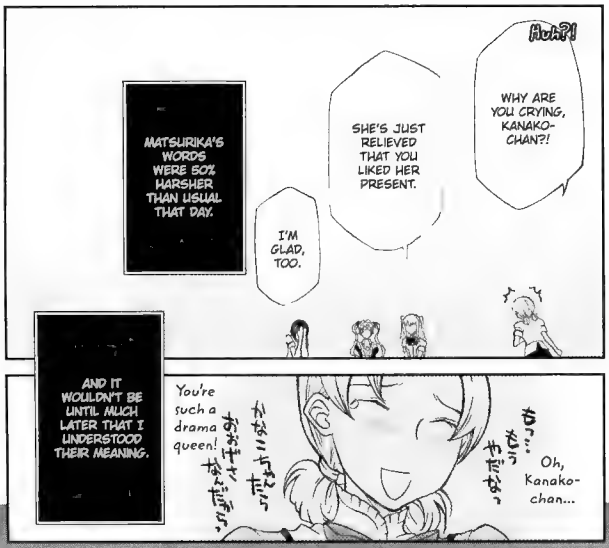
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS ABOUT?

DON'T ACT LIKE THIS IS ABOUT THE PRESENT!
DO YOU THINK I'M THAT SHALLOW?
OH? IT'S NOT ABOUT THE PRESENT?

...

TREMBLE
ふるふる
DON'T...
ふるふるふる
TREMBLE

...NGH!
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN TO ME TODAY, MATSURIKA-SAN?
ぽろぽろっ
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP


Huh?!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, KANAKO-CHAN?!
SHE'S JUST RELIEVED THAT YOU LIKED HER PRESENT.
I'M GLAD, TOO.
MATSURIKA'S WORDS WERE 80% HARSHER THAN USUAL THAT DAY.
AND IT WOULDN'T BE UNTIL MUCH LATER THAT I UNDERSTOOD THEIR MEANING.
Oh, Kanako-chan...
You're such a drama queen!
MY FIRST SUMMER SINCE COMING HERE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
IT'S A SUMMER THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET... ONE WITH A VERY SPECIAL MEANING.

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC

GREETINGS. SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING. I TRUST YOU BOTH ARE WELL.
KLAT
IT TOOK A LONG TIME, BUT I HAVE FINALLY COME BACK TO AME NO KISAKI.
I WILL CONFRONT YOU HEAD ON.
BUT MORE THAN THAT, I WILL CONFRONT MYSELF AS WELL.
Ame no Kisaki Women's Academy Junior and Senior High School

Prayer33
The Tale of the Tear-Stained Photo Album Part ①

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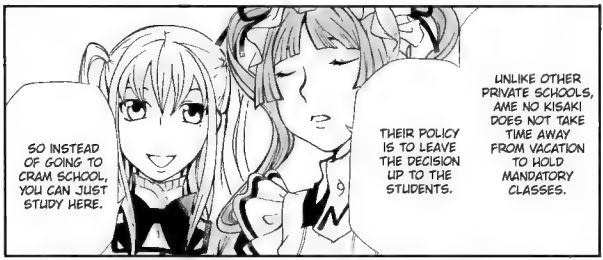
Um...
IS THIS AN EXTRA STORY OR SOMETHING?
NO, THIS IS MARIAHOLIC CHAPTER 33.
Like this.
OR MAYBE A MANGA ADVERTISEMENT?
IT'S LIKE THE FIRST PANEL IN TONO TO ISSHO.
...
YOU GUYS ARE GETTING PAID BY THE PUBLISHER, AREN'T YOU?

PUTTING ASIDE ODA NOBUNAGA REFERENCES FOR A SECOND...
WHAT WILL YOU GUYS DO WHEN I'M GONE?
あんにゅい...
ENNUI
WAIT, ARE YOU PROMOTING THEIR MANGA, OR THREATENING THEM?!
YOU CAN'T RELAX UNTIL YOU'VE CONQUERED THE ENTIRE NATION.
YOUR BELOVED RETAINERS COULD BETRAY YOU, AND YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN A COFFIN BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A CROWN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE KIND, BUT DON'T BE CRUEL!

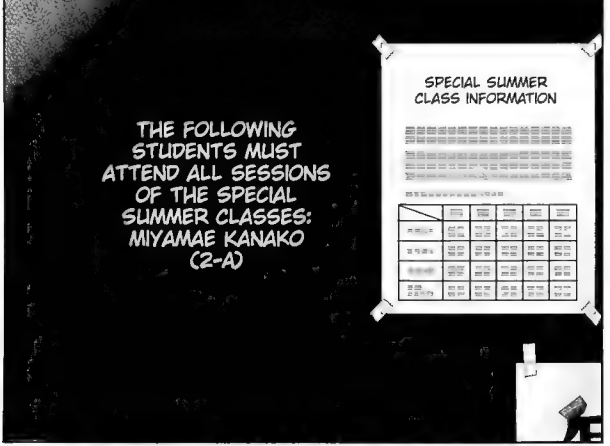
I'M ASKING IF THE TWO OF YOU WILL STAY IN THE MANSION WHILE I'M BACK HOME IN SHIZUOKA!!
NO! SUMMER VACATION STARTS TODAY.
YOU MEAN YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS WORLD?
WHEN YOU'RE GONE?

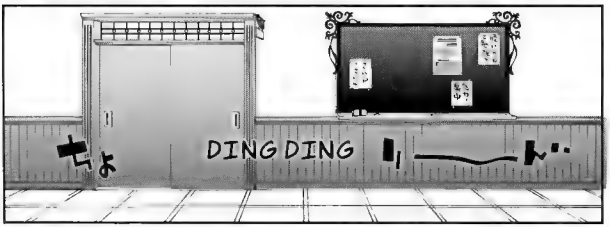
Not guilty.
無罪です。
PFFT!
AND IF THAT'S YOUR SMILE, MATSURIKA-SAN, I THINK I LIKE YOUR FROWN BETTER!
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU JUST GOT SOME SPAM EMAIL THAT SAYS "MY HUSBAND WAS EATEN BY A GIANT ANTEATER THREE YEARS AGO!"

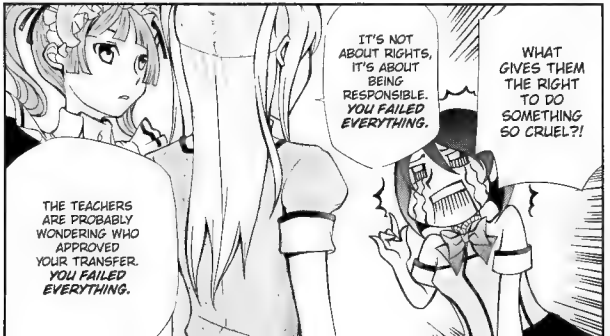
RUSTLE
LET ME EXPLAIN.
AT AME NO KISAKI, THEY HOLD SPECIAL SUMMER CLASSES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO TAKE THEM.
CHIRP
CHIRREEP
DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A SUMMER VACATION?
HUH?


SO INSTEAD OF GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL, YOU CAN JUST STUDY HERE.
THEIR POLICY IS TO LEAVE THE DECISION UP TO THE STUDENTS.
UNLIKE OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AME NO KISAKI DOES NOT TAKE TIME AWAY FROM VACATION TO HOLD MANDATORY CLASSES.

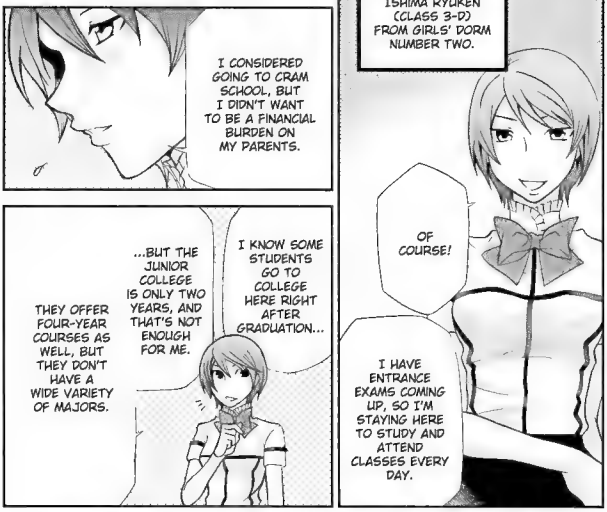
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
WELL, THAT'S NICE AND ALL...
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO WORKED HARD AND THOSE WHO *THOUGHT* THEY WERE WORKING HARD BECOMES QUITE CLEAR.
ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SESSION, THERE IS A NATIONAL EXAM THAT ALSO DOUBLES AS YOUR FINAL.

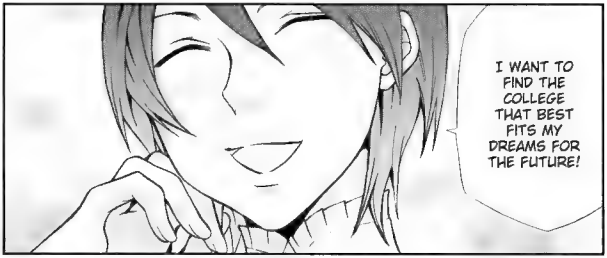

SPECIAL SUMMER CLASS INFORMATION
THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL SESSIONS OF THE SPECIAL SUMMER CLASSES: MIYAMAE KANAKO (2-A)


DING DONG


WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO DO SOMETHING SO CRUEL?!
IT'S NOT ABOUT RIGHTS, IT'S ABOUT BEING RESPONSIBLE. YOU FAILED EVERYTHING.
THE TEACHERS ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHO APPROVED YOUR TRANSFER. YOU FAILED EVERYTHING.

LISTEN! YOU'RE NOT "STUPID" BECAUSE YOU DON'T GET GOOD GRADES!
YOU'RE "STUPID" BECAUSE YOU WON'T STUDY.... EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE THE MEANS, THE RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE TIME TO DO SO!
マークシート エンジェル・パラディ
Buddy, the magic pencil.
Dead at 2 years and 10 months old.
享年2歳10月
I MISS YOU, BUDDY.
IT'S LIKE THOSE FOOLS WHO WORK HARD TO PASS THEIR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS ONLY TO SLACK OFF AND FLUNK OUT A SEMESTER LATER.
I HAD MY BUDDY BACK THEN, THAT'S ALL.
THAT REMINDS ME. YOU PASSED THE TRANSFER TEST JUST FINE BACK IN APRIL. HOW DID YOU GET SO STUPID?
WAIT!
LEAP
IF A BUNCH OF OTHER STUDENTS TAKE THE SPECIAL SUMMER CLASSES, THEN THAT MEANS...
SO STUDY HARD.
OKAY, WHATEVER. YOU'RE THE BETTER ONE.
THE PERSON WHO'S BEING TOLD THE RIGHT THING IS THE BETTER ONE!
DON'T THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME, JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT!


IN THE CASE OF ISHIMA RYUKEN (CLASS 3-D) FROM GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO.
OF COURSE!
I HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS COMING UP, SO I'M STAYING HERE TO STUDY AND ATTEND CLASSES EVERY DAY.
I CONSIDERED GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON MY PARENTS.
I KNOW SOME STUDENTS GO TO COLLEGE HERE RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION...
...BUT THE JUNIOR COLLEGE IS ONLY TWO YEARS, AND THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME.
THEY OFFER FOUR-YEAR COURSES AS WELL, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF MAJORS.


I WANT TO FIND THE COLLEGE THAT BEST FITS MY DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE!

ほー
Wow...

IN THE CASE OF INAMORI YUZURU (CLASS 2-A) FROM GIRLS' DORM NUMBER THREE.
OH, ME?
WELL, I HAVE TO STAY IN THE DORMS SO I CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER ARCHERY MEETS.
I SUPPOSE I'LL TAKE MY WORST SUBJECTS, AT LEAST.
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF MY FATHER AND BECOME A DIPLOMAT.
THAT MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFICULT WITH MY CURRENT GRADES, SO IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF I GET GROUNDED IN THE FUNDAMENTALS THIS SUMMER.

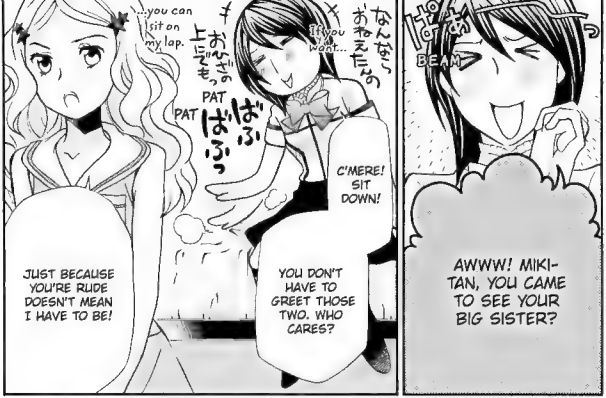
I WANT TO BRING THE BEAUTY OF ARCHERY TO THE WORLD.

Gee...

AS FOR STUDYING... WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE TIME.
THAT'S WHAT STUDENTS DO, RIGHT?
THE OVERSEAS SUBSIDIARY THAT MY FATHER PUT ME IN CHARGE OF ISN'T DOING WELL. I NEED TO GO ON SITE.
IN THE CASE OF TSUTSUI HONOKA (CLASS 2-A) FROM GIRLS' DORM NUMBER THREE.
I'M GOING HOME.
SPEAKING OF STUDIES, I WANTED TO GET AN MBA...
...BUT PEOPLE ARE THEORIZING THAT AMERICAN-STYLE ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008.
I GUESS I NEED TO THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IN THE FUTURE.

THAT'S RIGHT...
LIFE DOESN'T END AFTER YOU GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.
AH!
SO THE GRASSHOPPER FINALLY REALIZES THAT WINTER IS COMING.
THAT'S QUITE A STEP FOR HER.
LIVE FOR THE PRESENT! IT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT!
I'M SURPRISED THE KING OF TERROR DIDN'T TAKE YOU AWAY BACK IN 1999.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
I WISH EVERYONE WOULD SHUT UP ABOUT THEIR PERFECT LITTLE FUTURES! WHO ASKED THEM?! THE WORLD IS GONNA END IN 2012 ANYWAY!
GRAAH!
IT WAS FORETOLD BY THE INCANS OR THE MAYANS OR WHATEVER!
STILL, THEIR DREAMS WERE SO BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL!
I WANT TO SHINE LIKE THEM, TOO!
GRAAH!
DREAMING ABOUT THE FUTURE IS MEANINGLESS! GIVE IT UP!
NOW THAT YOU'RE FED, YOU WANT TO LIVE AGAIN?

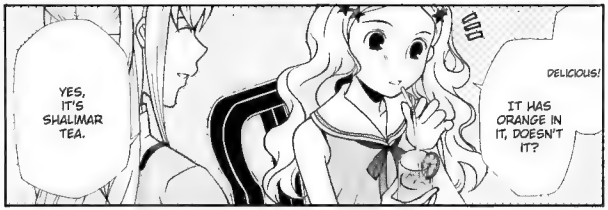
I'M GONNA STUDY FOR TOMORROW'S CLASSES!
KNOCK KNOCK
LET'S WORK HARD! 7TH GRADE ENGLISH
SORRY, MARIYA, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CHIT-CHAT!
I CAN'T WASTE A MINUTE... NOT EVEN A SECOND!
KA-CHING
HUH.
YES SIREEE.
MIYAMAE-SAN, YOU HAVE A GUEEEEST.
KA-CHAK
BOW
THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MY SISTER.
MARIYA-SAN, MATSURIKA-SAN...


AWWW! MIKI-TAN, YOU CAME TO SEE YOUR BIG SISTER?
BEAM
C'MERE! SIT DOWN!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GREET THOSE TWO. WHO CARES?
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE RUDE DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO BE!
PAT
PAT
...you can sit on my lap.
If you want...

AWWW! I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE STRICT WITH ME!
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH MORE THAN BIG SIS YUME!
I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE BEHIND THEIR BACKS.
ROLL
ROLL
TEE HEE! MIKI, MIKI, YOU GOODY-TWO-SHOES!
MY HEART JUST ACHES FOR YOU!
YOU'RE EVEN CUTER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU!
AND YOU'RE EVEN BIGGER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU.

STAB
OH...
I GUESS THAT WAS OFF-LIMITS.

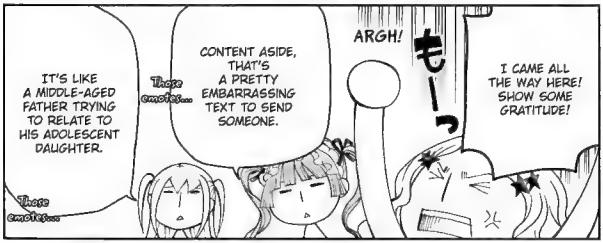
LIKE NIGHT AND DAY.
SUCH A WELL-BEHAVED YOUNG LADY... UNLIKE YOU, KANAKO-SAMA.
I KNOW! ♡
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
HERE, I'VE MADE YOU SOME TEA.
MIKI-SAN, YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM TRAVELING SO FAR.

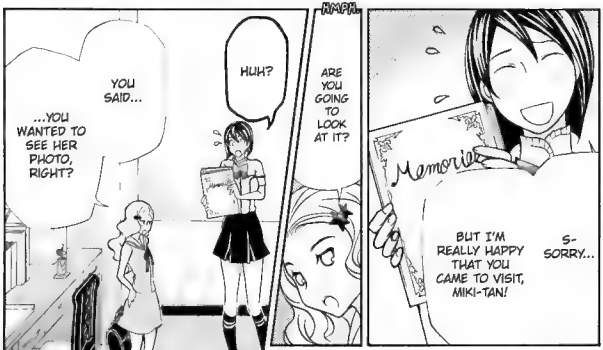

YES, IT'S SHALIMAR TEA.
DELICIOUS!
IT HAS ORANGE IN IT, DOESN'T IT?

YOU'VE GROWN AS BEAUTIFUL AS A DREAM SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
MUMBLE
MARIYA-SAN ...
IT'S PERFECT FOR A HOT DAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU PUT SOME SUGAR ON ORANGE SLICES AND POUR HOT TEA OVER THEM.

I BROUGHT YOU THE ALBUM.
BY THE WAY, KANAKO-CHAN.
?
SINCE YOU LAST SAW HER?
YOU SENT ME AN EMAIL ABOUT IT, REMEMBER?
SINCE WE'RE ON SUMMER VACATION, DAD TOLD ME TO BRING IT TO YOU.
I FORGOT! THAT WAS WAY BACK IN VOLUME FOUR.
BUT I ASKED YOU TO SEND IT BY MAIL, DIDN'T I?
Memories
.....
SHFF

10:26
受信メール
From
MIYAMAE KANAKO
Subject
TO PRETTY MIKI MIKI-TAN
SIZE: 79 BYTES
HELLO!
THIS IS YOUR LOVING SISTER.
I WANT TO SEE A PHOTO OF MOM, SO PLEASE BRING ONE TO ME.
----END----
REPLY
MULTI
FUNCTION
ふるる
TREMBLE
ふるる
TREMBLE
RECEIVED MAIL


IT'S LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED FATHER TRYING TO RELATE TO HIS ADOLESCENT DAUGHTER.
Those emotes...
CONTENT ASIDE, THAT'S A PRETTY EMBARRASSING TEXT TO SEND SOMEONE.
Those emotes...
ARGH!
もーっ
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE! SHOW SOME GRATITUDE!


...YOU WANTED TO SEE HER PHOTO, RIGHT?
YOU SAID...
HUH?
HMPH...
ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK AT IT?
Memories
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU CAME TO VISIT, MIKI-TAN!
S-SORRY...

SOMEHOW I FEEL AS THOUGH I SHOULDN'T OPEN THIS HERE.
I...I'LL LOOK AT IT LATER.
HMPH.
OF COURSE.
Y-YEAH...
HUH? THAT'S STRANGE...
GYOBO-WAAAAH?!
GOOOONG
HOW SPLENDID!
MY SISTER'S GRADUATION ESSAY. (JUNIOR HIGH EDITION)
BY THE WAY, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, MARIYA-SAN.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS PROGRESS OR DEVOLUTION, REALLY...
HEY HEY HEY HEY HEY!
HER GRADE SCHOOL ESSAY WAS HIDDEN UNDER THE BED, RIGHT?
HEY, HEY!
SHE HAD IT HIDDEN BEHIND THE VENT IN HER ROOM.
It made the fan stop working and made weird noises.
HEY!

BWOOSH
HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
Aside from the essay...
ARE YOU GUYS SECRETLY FRIENDS OR SOMETHING?!
I WON'T ALLOW IT! NOT AS LONG AS I DRAW BREATH!

I CONTACTED MIKI-SAN THE OTHER DAY TO ASK HER TO BRING THE ESSAY.
Mm. The orange is nice
SLURP
THANK YOU, MIKI-TAN!
Oh, my!
KANAKO-CHAN, CALM DOWN AND HAVE SOME TEA.

Reading it loud and clear.
鈴の鳴るような声で朗読。
"WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A GENIUS PASTY CHEF."
"BECAUSE MY LITTLE SISTER LOVES CAKE."
"BY THE WAY, MY BIG SISTER HATES GREEN PEPPERS."
"AND IF I CAN'T DO THAT, I WANT TO BE A GENIUS COPYRIDER."
OGYAAAAAAH!!

Let's see..
"I WANT TO BE A BUNCH OF THINGS."
"BUT WHAT I WANT TO BE THE MOST IS A PRINCESS."
THE NEXT PART IS EVEN BETTER.
THAT STILL MAKES ME LAUGH.
WAAAAAAH!!
"I WANT TO BE A PRETTY PRINCESS..."
"...SO THAT A PRINCE CAN COME AND SAVE ME."
A PRINCE! OH MY, ISN'T THAT JUST SIMPLY ROMANTIC.
I SEE. SO YOU USED TO LIKE BOYS, DID YOU?
WAAAAH!!

...you'll die.
If you in the hallways...
Hyan!

KANAKO-CHAN!
CAREFREE STUDY
ゆとり
FUGYAAAAH !!

I'M SORRY THAT MY SISTER IS ACTING SO DISGRACEFULLY.
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.

HEH...
WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE SCHOOL WHILE WE LOOK FOR KANAKO-SAN?

ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD. YOU TWO MUST BE REALLY CLOSE.

OOOPS.
BUT YOU DO ADMIT THAT SHE'S EMBARRASSING, THEN?

I JUST RAN AWAY SCREAMING WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT WHERE I WAS GOING.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO SEE!!
THERE'S A LOT TO SEE IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED--
DEFINITELY!
9
I'M GONNA GET IN TROUBLE FOR TRESPASSING!
PRIVATE PROPERTY? IS THIS MARIYA'S GARDEN?!
WHERE AM I?!
I CAME TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE.
NO.
D-DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR YOUR BIG SISTER?
WHO?
不法侵入だよ
This is private property
MIKI-TAN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KANAKO-CHAN?
POIK
YEEEP!
JOLT

SOMEONE WHO HELPED ME WHEN I NEEDED HELP.
SOMEONE I'M DEEPLY INDEBTED TO.
SOMEONE WHO POINTED THE WAY FOR ME...
...WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I DIDN'T THINK SHE WOULD DIE BEFORE I COULD SEE HER AGAIN.
I WANTED TO THANK HER PROPERLY...
HEY, MIKI...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER VISITED HER GRAVE, HAVE I?

HOW COME YOU NEVER CALL MOM "MOM"?
DO YOU HATE HER?
NO.
I DON'T HATE HER.
N-NO, OF COURSE YOU DON'T. HOW COULD YOU?
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE HER.
WHAT?! WHY?! SHE'S OUR MOTHER!
I WAS REALLY YOUNG WHEN SHE DIED.
I DON'T REMEMBER HER AT ALL.
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT SHE DID...
...AND THE CONSE-QUENCES OF HER ACTIONS.
AND EVEN THAT, I HEARD FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

IF I'D NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT IT, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CALL HER "MOM."
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOVE HER LIKE YOU DO, KANAKO-CHAN.
MIKI?
BUT THE REASON THAT DAD LEFT AME NO KISAKI...
...WAS BECAUSE SHE DID SOMETHING FOOLISH.

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC

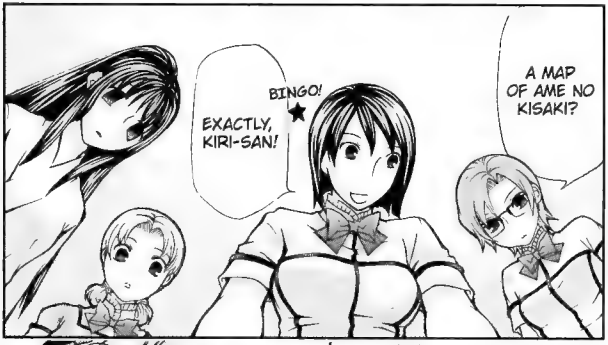
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE I TRANSFERRED TO AME NO KISAKI.
THANKS TO THE HELP OF SOME BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMEN AND BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRLS, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ADJUST TO THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT.
BUT THERE'S ONE QUESTION THAT REMAINS UNANSWERED...

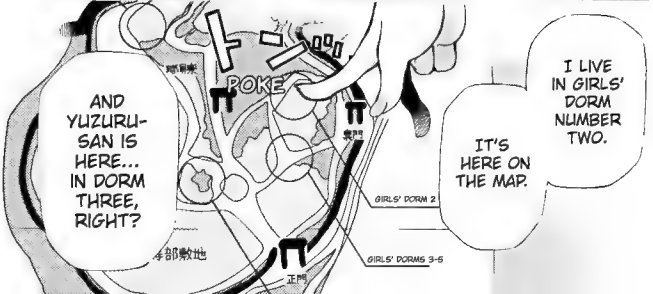
"WHIRLWIND! THE TALE OF GIRLS' DORM NUMBER ONE" WAS A SCRIPT WRITTEN BY MINARI ENDOU FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARIAHOLIC DRAMA CD (FROM FRONTIER WORKS INC.) RELEASED ON 7/25/2008. THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER IS BASED ON THAT SCRIPT.

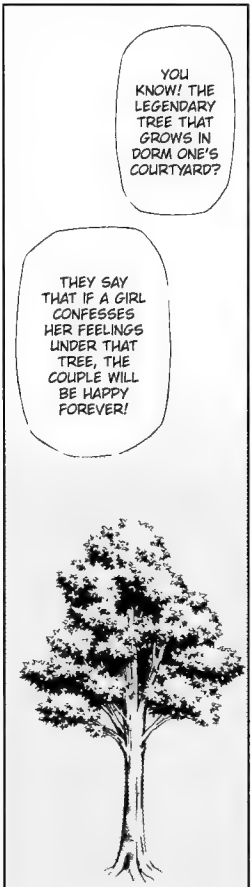
Special Chapter

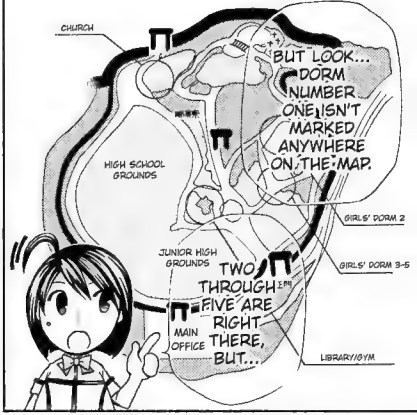
Whirlwind! The Tale of Girls' Dorm Number One

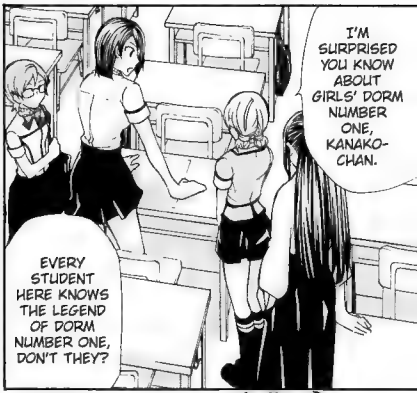
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
FLAP
CHECK THIS OUT.


A MAP OF AME NO KISAKI?
BINGO!
EXACTLY, KIRI-SAN!


POKE
I LIVE IN GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO.
IT'S HERE ON THE MAP.
AND YUZURU-SAN IS HERE... IN DORM THREE, RIGHT?
GIRLS' DORM 2
GIRLS' DORMS 3-5


YOU KNOW! THE LEGENDARY TREE THAT GROWS IN DORM ONE'S COURTYARD?
THEY SAY THAT IF A GIRL CONFESSES HER FEELINGS UNDER THAT TREE, THE COUPLE WILL BE HAPPY FOREVER!


CHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS
JUNIOR HIGH GROUNDS
MAIN OFFICE
GIRLS' DORM 2
GIRLS' DORM 3-5
LIBRARY/GYM
BUT LOOK... DORM NUMBER ONE ISN'T MARKED ANYWHERE ON THE MAP.
TWO THROUGH FIVE ARE RIGHT THERE, BUT...


I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW ABOUT GIRLS' DORM NUMBER ONE, KANAKO-CHAN.
EVERY STUDENT HERE KNOWS THE LEGEND OF DORM NUMBER ONE, DON'T THEY?

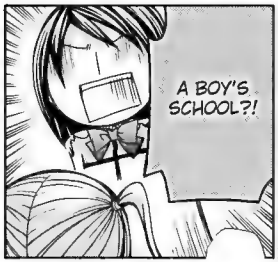
HUH?
THE GLITTERING LOVERS' STORY!

AH, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE TAISANBOKU TREE.
THAT'S WHAT MY MOM SAID, AT LEAST. MAYBE THE LEGEND DIED OUT WITH HER GENERATION.
WELL ...
I BELIEVE ...
...MOST PEOPLE KNOW IT AS A "MAGNOLIA."
IT WAS BROUGHT FROM THE AMERICAS DURING THE MEIJI ERA.
ITS BLOSSOMS ARE WHITE, WITH A SWEET FRAGRANCE.
I HEAR THAT THEY USE IT AS A BOUQUET FOR JUNE BRIDES IN EUROPE.
The flowers are about this size
BRIDES...
THE LEGEND HASN'T REALLY DIED OUT...
...IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE HERE REALLY TRIES IT ANYMORE.
IN HER MIND.

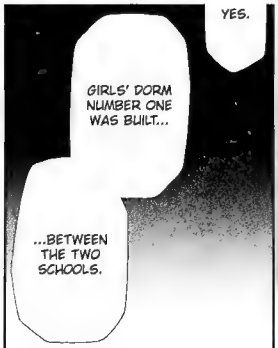
BUT THE BUILDING ITSELF IS STILL THERE...AND OF COURSE THE MAGNOLIA, TOO.
REALLY?!
NO.
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT TO DO, SO NO ONE BOTHERS.
What?!
WHY NOT?! WAS THE DORM TORN DOWN OR SOMETHING?!
THAT PLACE IS FULL OF MEMORIES FOR MY PARENTS, SO I'M GLAD IT'S STILL AROUND.
Phew!
THAT'S A RELIEF!
...MEMORIES?
FULL OF...
...WE ALL DECIDED TO GO TO DORM ONE TOMORROW, SINCE IT'S SUNDAY AND WE DON'T HAVE CLASSES.
AFTER I TOLD THEM THE STORY...

OH, THE ONE IN THE COURTYARD, HUH?
YOU MUST BE REALLY BORED TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE JUST TO SEE SOME FLOWERS.
SACHI-SAN SAID IT WOULD BE PERFECT, SINCE THE MAGNOLIA TREE SHOULD BE IN BLOOM RIGHT NOW.
SO THAT'S WHERE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER GOT TOGETHER, HUH?
HM.
ロマンチックなことで。
How romantic.
TROUBLE?
YOU DIDN'T HEAR? DORM ONE USED TO BE USED AS A GUEST-HOUSE.
LIKE A HOTEL FOR PEOPLE VISITING THE SCHOOL.
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORMITORY NUMBER ONE
OKAY, BUT WHY IS THAT TROUBLE?
KEEP LISTENING.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE DORM IS LOCATED?
?
I HEARD IT'S ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE SCHOOL.

THEN DO YOU ALSO KNOW ABOUT THE OTHER BUILDING ON THE TOP OF THE HILL?
Huh?
WHAT OTHER BUILDING?


A BOY'S SCHOOL?!

MIHOSHI NO MORI ACADEMY.
THE BROTHER SCHOOL OF AME NO KISAKI.
MIHOSHI NO MORI
御星の森学園
THE SCHOOL WHERE MARIYA-SAMA'S LITTLE SISTER SHIZU-SAMA ATTENDS DRESSED AS A BOY.


YES.
GIRLS' DORM NUMBER ONE WAS BUILT...
...BETWEEN THE TWO SCHOOLS.

IT WAS QUITE AN ORDEAL BACK THEN.
YES INDEED.
"THE YEAR OF OUR LORD" STARTED THE DAY GOD WAS BORN, YOU KNOOOOOW.
"GOD" IS A POSITION YOU'RE BORN INTO.
What?!
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THE DORMS BACK THEN, TOO?!
HYAN!!
SO, WE HIRED THE DEATH-DEFYING MERCENARY TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
...ASSAULTING THE POOR MAIDENS OF THIS LOVELY ACAAAAADEMY.
...AND UNDER-WEAR THIEVES...
...PEEPING TOMS...
AS A RESULT, WE HAD THINGS LIKE STALKERS...
AT ANY RATE, AS YOU SAID, GIRLS' DORM NUMBER ONE IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE TWO SCHOOLS.
Stalkers—no good
ストーカー良くない。
覗き見良くない。
Peeping Toms—no good
下着ドロ良くない。
Underwear Thieves—no good

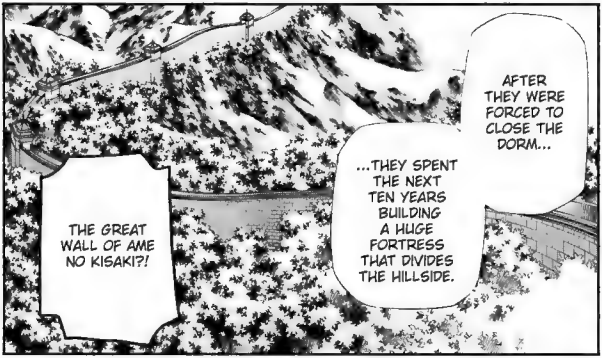
WHAAAAAT?!
HE WAS QUITE A BAD BOY BACK THEN.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S MELLOWED OUT A BIT LATELY, THOUGH.
HYALIH!

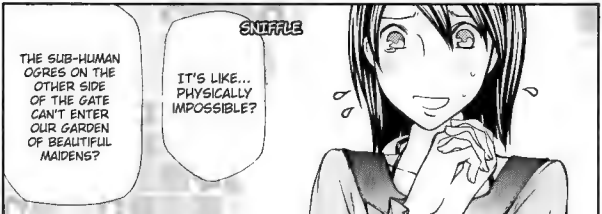
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH GOOD HE MIGHT HAVE DONE, YONEKUNI-SAN IS STILL JUST A DOG.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN HE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.
THUS, A DOG'S LIFE.
OUCH.
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY HARSH!
Don't mind me.
SO THEY TOOK MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
AT ANY RATE, THE FOLKS IN CHARGE FIGURED THEY COULDN'T RELY ON ONE LITTLE DOG FOREVER...
I'm just being thunderous~

TOOK MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS?
Oh, yes.
THEY INSTALLED TRAPS INSIDE OF THE DORM TO FIGHT OFF THE INTRUDERS.
WELL, THAT WAS THE PLAAAAAAN AT LEAST.
KEEP OUT

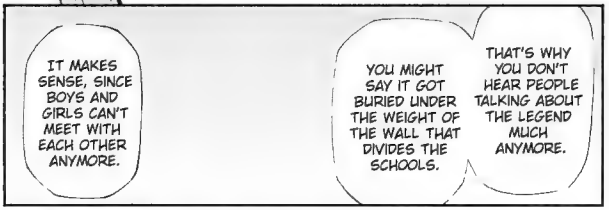
IT ALL SOON TURNED TO TRAGEDY.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
...THE DORM SOON BECAME A FORTRESS THAT NOT ONLY KEPT OUT INTRUDERS, BUT ITS INHABITANTS AS WELL.
AS TRAPS CONTINUED TO BE BUILT...
AT LEAST ...
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
HUH
SOUNDS LIKE THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE WERE PRETTY STUPID.
AT ANY RATE, THAT'S WHY THEY WERE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN THE DORM.
Oh, shut up
You're one to talk!
THERE ISN'T ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHERE AND WHAT ALL THE TRAPS ARE, LET ALONE A MAP.
PEOPLE INSTALLED WHATEVER THEY WANTED, WHEREVER THEY WANTED.
THEY DON'T HAVE A MAP OR SOME-THING?
IF YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, IT SHOULDN'T BE DANGEROUS.

WAIT!
DOES THAT MEAN BOYS STILL SNEAK OVER TO AME NO KISAKI?
OH NO!! WHAT IF THEY DECIDE TO COME TO OUR DORM?!
CALM DOWN. THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
HUH?!
YAAAWN
PANIC PANIC
PANIC PANIC

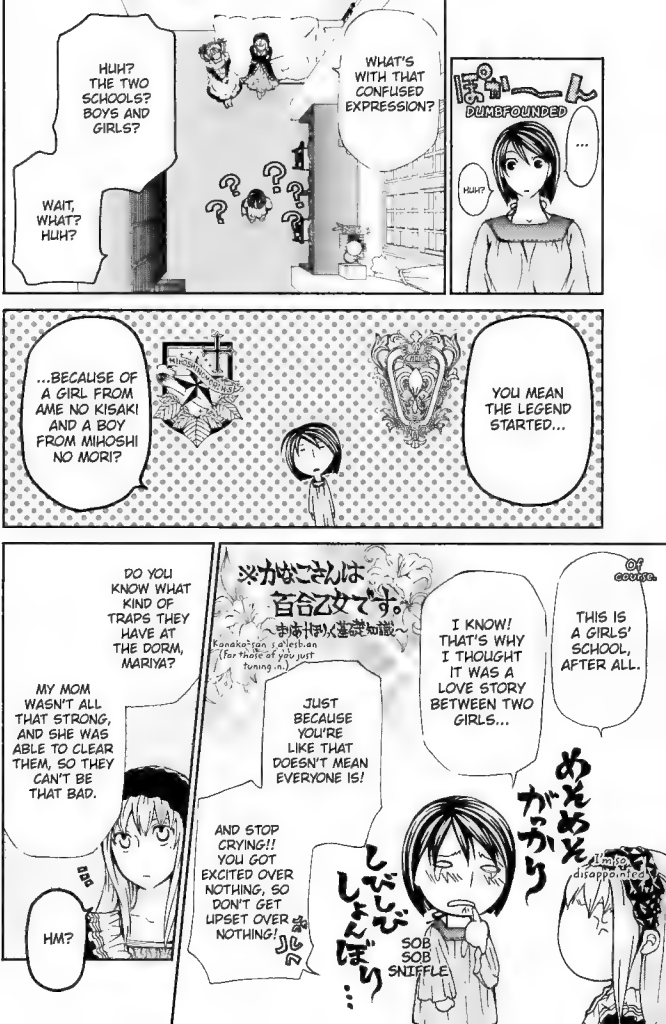

AFTER THEY WERE FORCED TO CLOSE THE DORM...
...THEY SPENT THE NEXT TEN YEARS BUILDING A HUGE FORTRESS THAT DIVIDES THE HILLSIDE.
THE GREAT WALL OF AME NO KISAKI?!


SNIFFLE
IT'S LIKE... PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE?
THE SUB-HUMAN OGRES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE CAN'T ENTER OUR GARDEN OF BEAUTIFUL MAIDENS?

難攻不落。
IMPENETRABLE!
Right.
THE ONLY TIME THE GATE OPENS IS DURING THE FALL WHEN THE TWO SCHOOLS HOLD A FESTIVAL TOGETHER.
UNLESS YOU'RE ONE OF THE SELECT FEW WITH A KEY TO THE GATE, YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THE HILL AND AROUND TOWN TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE.
WHAT A RELIEF!
HUFF
PHEW


IT MAKES SENSE, SINCE BOYS AND GIRLS CAN'T MEET WITH EACH OTHER ANYMORE.
YOU MIGHT SAY IT GOT BURIED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WALL THAT DIVIDES THE SCHOOLS.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HEAR PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT THE LEGEND MUCH ANYMORE.

IT'S NO WONDER THE WHOLE THING TURNED INTO A LEGEND.
IT MUST HAVE TAKEN AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF DETERMINATION.
STILL, IMAGINE TWO STUDENTS EXCHANGING MESSAGES IN SECRET... BRAVING A SEA OF TRAPS TO COME TOGETHER AND CONFESS BENEATH THE MAGNOLIA TREE...


HUH? THE TWO SCHOOLS? BOYS AND GIRLS?
WAIT, WHAT? HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THAT CONFUSED EXPRESSION?
DUMBFOUNDED
...
HUH?
...BECAUSE OF A GIRL FROM AME NO KISAKI AND A BOY FROM MIHOSHI NO MORI?
YOU MEAN THE LEGEND STARTED...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRAPS THEY HAVE AT THE DORM, MARIYA?
MY MOM WASN'T ALL THAT STRONG, AND SHE WAS ABLE TO CLEAR THEM, SO THEY CAN'T BE THAT BAD.
HM?
※かなこさんは百合乙女です。
まほやぼり人基礎知識～
Kanakotan is a lesbian (for those of you just tuning in)
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYONE IS!
AND STOP CRYING!! YOU GOT EXCITED OVER NOTHING, SO DON'T GET UPSET OVER NOTHING!
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOVE STORY BETWEEN TWO GIRLS...
Of course.
THIS IS A GIRLS' SCHOOL, AFTER ALL.
めそめそ
がっかり
しびしび
しょんぼり…
SOB SOB SNIFFLE
I'm so disappointed.

THEY CALL IT "THE GATE OF TRIAL."
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT I HEAR MOST CHALLENGERS DON'T MAKE IT PAST THE FRONT DOOR.
NO CLUE.

THEY SAY A VERY BEAUTIFUL HELPER CHARACTER WILL BAIL YOU OUT IN YOUR TIME OF NEED... FOR THE RIGHT PRICE.
I HEARD ANOTHER LEGEND.
Whoa!
SCARY NAME FOR A FRONT DOOR!

HMM I THINK I'D RATHER TAKE A WALK IN THE GARDEN, MYSELF.
HMMM ...
THEY MUST REALLY LIKE ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY FRIENDS ARE WILLING TO COME WITH ME TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE!
SHINY? LIKE SARDINES?
NO ANYMORE. I LIKE THOSE AS WELL.

WHAT IS THIS, A VIDEO GAME?
I HEAR SHE'S ESPECIALLY FOND OF SHINY THINGS.

BUT EVEN IF I'M NOT COMING ALONG...
...I HOPE THOSE TRIALS WORK OUT FOR YOU.
HUH?
A-ARE YOU ACTUALLY CHEERING ME ON, MARIYA?
I MEAN... ARE THE TRIALS REALLY THAT DANGEROUS?
NIKO NIKO SMILE
...WITH A SPECIAL GROUP OF FRIENDS I'VE MADE HERE AT AME NO KISAKI.
TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO SHARE IN A PRECIOUS MEMORY OF YOURS...
PLEASE WATCH OVER ME.
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...

CHIRP
CHIRP

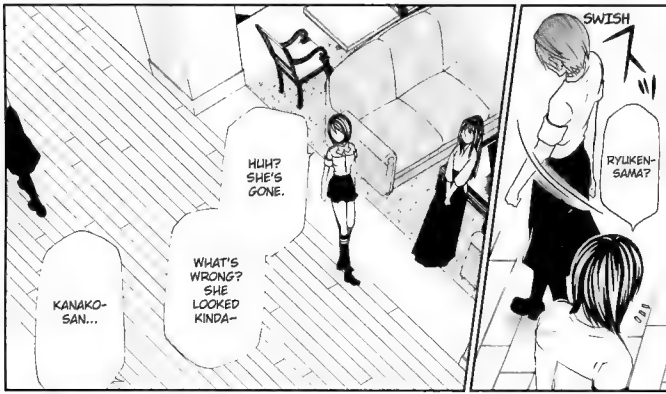
BOW
ペコリ。
INAMORI YUZURU.
OH, YOU'RE-
HUH?

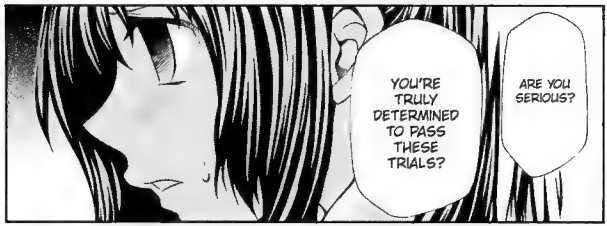
さっきちふみ
Satsuki Chifumi
3-D
3-D
OH, RIGHT! YOU'RE CHIFUMI'S ROOMMATE.
I HEAR ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME!
SHE TELLS ME ALL ABOUT HER CUTE LITTLE UNDERCLASS-MAN.

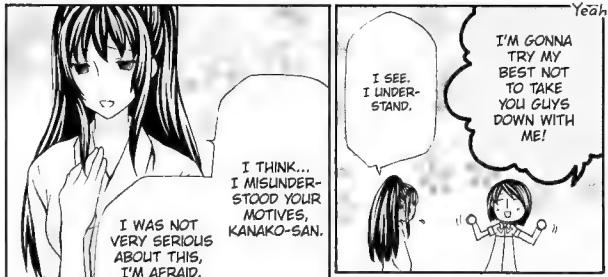
TAK
TAK
TAK
WELCOME TO DORM TWO.
ARE YOU HERE TO MEET SOMEONE?
YES, ACTUALLY...

OH!
GOOD MORNING, RYUKEN-SAMA!
AH, GOOD MORNING, KANAKO-KUN.
SORRY, YUZURU-SAN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING WHEN YOU WERE SO NICE TO STOP BY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WAS A BIT EARLY, ACTUALLY.
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS TODAY, KANAKO-KUN?
YUP! WE'RE GOING TO GIRLS' DORM NUMBER ONE.
OH, I SEE! ARE YOU GOING TO SEE THE MAGNOLIA TREE IN THE COURTYARD?
IT SHOULD BE IN FULL BLOOM THIS TIME OF YEAR, I SUPPOSE.
YUP!
WE'RE GONNA PASS THE TRIALS WITH FLYING COLORS!

AH, YES, THE TRIALS...
?!
WAIT, DID YOU JUST SAY "TRIALS," KANAKO-KUN?
KANAKO-SAN, YOU DON'T MEAN...
I HEARD DORM ONE IS FILLED WITH TRAPS SET UP TO KEEP THE BOYS OUT.
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN MARIYA TOLD ME.
MUTTER
I-INDEED.
BUT KNOWING THAT, YOU'RE STILL GOING FOR IT?
AH, FORGIVE ME...IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY.
BUT STILL...
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
?
KANAKO-KUN...
HAVE YOU TRULY MADE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT THIS?
HUH?
WELL, YEAH.
I SEE.

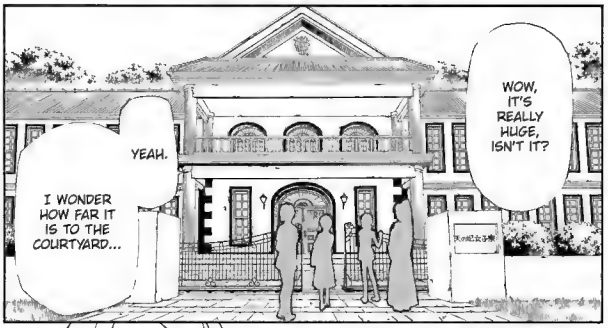

KANAKO-SAN...
WHAT'S WRONG? SHE LOOKED KINDA-
HUH? SHE'S GONE.
SWISH
RYUKEN-SAMA?


ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YOU'RE TRULY DETERMINED TO PASS THESE TRIALS?


I'M GONNA TRY MY BEST NOT TO TAKE YOU GUYS DOWN WITH ME!
Yeah!
I SEE. I UNDER-STAND.
I THINK... I MISUNDER-STOOD YOUR MOTIVES, KANAKO-SAN.
I WAS NOT VERY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, I'M AFRAID. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND GIVE IT OUR BEST!
YOU BET! THANKS, YUZURU-SAN!
YUZURU-CHAN! KANAKO-CHAN! WE'RE HERE!!
GOOD MORNING, SACHI-SAN. GOOD MORNING, KIRI-SAN.
SORRY, DID WE KEEP YOU WAITING?
OH, NO. WE JUST GOT HERE.
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO

HUH? ABOUT WHAT?
NOTHING! NEVER MIND.
LET'S DO OUR BEST TO MAKE IT THROUGH, OKAY?
BY THE WAY, KANAKO-CHAN...
YUZURU-CHAN SENT ME A TEXT MESSAGE ABOUT THIS... BUT YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS?


WOW, IT'S REALLY HUGE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
I WONDER HOW FAR IT IS TO THE COURTYARD...

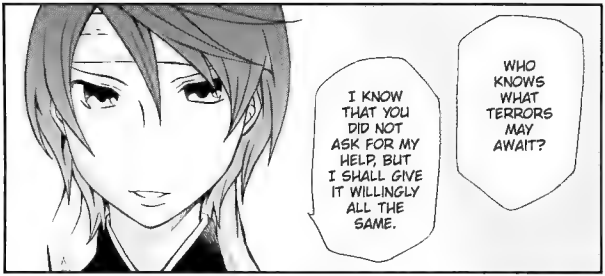
MEW POOF
I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE...
...A LOCK-PICKING SET!
OH... UH...
NO NEED TO WORRY!
AND HOW DO YOU INTEND TO GET INSIDE THIS DORM?
DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA KEY?

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT DISK CYLINDER LOCKS ARE EASY TO PICK...
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO BREAK IN.
THIS IS A PRETTY OLD LOCK.
OKAY, IT'S OPEN!
I'D HAVE EXPECTED HER TO HAVE THE LOCK-PICKING SET WITH HER...
BUT I NEVER GUESSED SHE WOULD HAVE THE SKILL TO USE IT.
BREAKING AND ENTERING... DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY...
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY CHARGES WE COULD BE FACING?
ACTUALLY...
SINCE THIS IS A PUBLIC BUILDING, BREAKING AND ENTERING MIGHT NOT APPLY.
GOOD. THAT'S ONE CHARGE DISMISSED, AT LEAST.
PHEW
WHAAAAT?!
WE'RE WAITING FOR YOUR COMMAND TO ENTER...
SINCE YOU'RE THE RINGLEADER, KANAKO-SAN.
ME? WHY?
DOESN'T THE RING-LEADER GET PUNISHED THE WORST?!

A DANGEROUS THOUGHT.
OH WELL. IF THEY DON'T FIND OUT, IT WON'T BECOME A CRIME.
KA-CHAK
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I LET MYSELF IN.
DASH
LOOK OUT!!
HUH?
BAM
SMASH

TUNG
SHRAK
ROLL
KA-TAK
MURMUR
IT'S...

SWISH
ISHIMA-SENPAI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
I COULDN'T REST EASY KNOWING THAT YOU CAME HERE TO CHALLENGE THE TRIALS.
I'M GLAD I MADE IT HERE IN TIME.
BUT THIS ARROWHEAD LOOKS LIKE IT'S MADE OF RUBBER.
WOULDN'T DOING NOTHING HAVE CAUSED LESS DAMAGE THAN YOU JUST DID?


I KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT ASK FOR MY HELP, BUT I SHALL GIVE IT WILLINGLY ALL THE SAME.
WHO KNOWS WHAT TERRORS MAY AWAIT?

YES.
BUT THE REAL SWORD IS IN MY HEART.
BY THE WAY, IS THAT AN ACTUAL SWORD YOU ARE CARRYING?
ISHIMA-SENPAI...

AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORMITORY
天の妃子寮
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING AN OLD MAN WOULD SAY.
NEVERTHE-LESS, WE MUST ADVANCE! BATTLE AWAITS!

WELL...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YUZURU-CHAN?
FOR A PLACE THAT'S BEEN CLOSED FOR SO LONG, IT SEEMS AWFULLY CLEAN.
THIS WAY
TO THE LEGENDARY TREE
THIS SEEMS A BIT STRANGE...
PERHAPS THEY HIRE JANITORS TO KEEP IT UP?
I'M SURE THEY DON'T WANT IT FALLING APART.
HM?
THE FIRST...
...TRIAL?
THE FIRST TRIAL
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD ENTER HERE.

JUDGING BY WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FRONT GATE...
ガチャ
KA-CHAK
...I'D BETTER OPEN IT MYSELF.
?!
TWO BATHTUBS FULL OF WATER?
I WONDER IF IT'S SOME SORT OF TRAP?
I'VE SEEN THIS SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
ACTUALLY, IT WAS ON A TV SHOW.
OH, LIKE WHEN THEY GIVE ADVERTISERS FREE COMMERCIAL TIME BASED ON HOW LONG THEY STAY IN A TUB OF SCALDING WATER?
YEAH, THAT'S IT! OF COURSE, THEY SAY IT'S SCALDING HOT...
...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY JUST LUKEWARM AND~
ちゃぷっ
PLOOSH
ぷくぷく

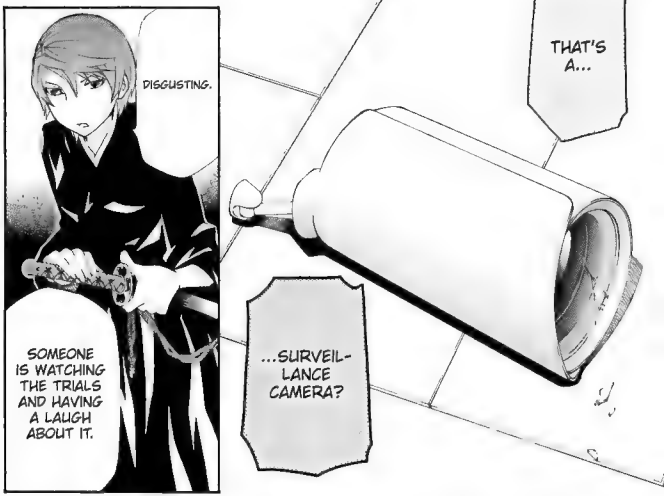
GYAAAH!
HOOOOTT!!
KANAKO-CHAN! PUT YOUR HAND IN THIS COLD TUB, QUICK!!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS IS THE REAL DEAL.
THE FACT THAT THE BOILER IS WORKING PROPERLY IN A BUILDING THAT'S BEEN SHUT UP FOR SUCH A LONG TIME...
...MIGHT INDICATE THAT THE TOKYO GAS COMPANY IS IN ON THE CONSPIRACY.
IT'S NOT REALLY A CONSPIRACY, SENPAI...
HM?
ゴクリ!! GULP
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KIRI-SAN?
KLAT
WHAT COULD THIS BE?
THE FIRST TRIAL: BOILING HOT BATH
第一の試練 熱湯風呂
TAKE A LOOK.
THEY APPEAR TO BE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GAME.
GAME?
I THINK YOU MEAN "TRIAL"...OR "TRAP."
Call it whatever you like.
WHAT DOES IT SAY, KIRI-SAN?
I'LL READ IT OUT LOUD.

"THE FIRST TRIAL: BOILING HOT BATH."
Wha—?!
SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD!
THAT MAKES IT EVEN SCARIER...
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS, HUH?
SHIVER

"THE RULES ARE SIMPLE."
"DON'T BE A BABY, AND JUMP IN THE BOILING WATER."
"FOR EVERY SECOND YOU STAY IN THE WATER, YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE COIN."
There you go!
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, KANAKO-SAN!
OH BOY! REWARD COINS!
SHOVE
KA-SPLASH
NO! IT'S HOT! HOT! HOT! HOT!!
CONQUER THE PAIN, KANAKO-SAN!!
W-WAIT ...!
WOBBLE
LET GO, YUZURU-SAN! I CAN'T! I CAN'T DO IT!

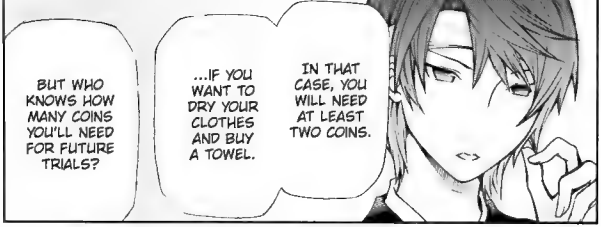
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!
BUT AT LEAST WE CLEARED THE TRIAL.
"HOWEVER, UNDER TEN SECONDS WILL NOT COUNT."
HUH?
WHAT DOES THE COUNTER SAY?!
IT'S...
...NINE SECONDS, SENPAI.

NOOOO!!
"THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU."
"I AM CHEERING FOR YOU. GOOD LUCK."
"P.S."
"COOL DOWN IN THE COLD WATER BATH."
Oh...
HOW THOUGHT-FUL.
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL "SENDING SALT TO THE ENEMY"?
IS THAT REALLY A SAYING?
STILL, I CANNOT APPROVE OF THEIR METHODS.
ISHIMA-SENPAI?!
ZSSH
SHING
NOW!
...YOUR-SELF!!
SHOW...
KA-TUNK
WHOA.


DISGUSTING.
SOMEONE IS WATCHING THE TRIALS AND HAVING A LAUGH ABOUT IT.
...SURVEILLANCE CAMERA?
THAT'S A...

A CAMERA IN THE BATH?! THEY'RE LIKE A PEEPING TOM.
INDEED.
BUT FEAR NOT, MAIDENS. YOU MAY BARE YOUR SKIN IN PRIVACY NOW.
YOU CAN SOAK IN THE BOILING WATER ALL YOU WANT NOW, KANAKO-KUN!
WHAT?! NOW YOU WANT ME TO GET IN THERE NAKED?
Of course!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR CLOTHES WET, DO YOU?
LOOK AT ME! THEY'RE ALREADY WET!

I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, EITHER!
AAARGH!
NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO FINISH THE OTHER TRIALS SOAKING WET!
GLOOM
THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T HAVE EXTRA CLOTHES!
DO NOT WORRY, MIYAMAE-SAN.
LOOK OVER THERE.
SHFF
AUTOMATIC TOWEL DISPENSER
Huh?!
WHAT'S A LAUNDROMAT DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT ONLY WORKS WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF COIN.
They even have an automatic towel dispenser!
SPECIAL COIN? YOU MEAN LIKE THE KIND YOU GET BY SOAKING IN THE BOILING WATER?
YES. THE ONE WHERE YOU GET A COIN FOR EVERY SECOND YOU STAY IN. DID YOU FORGET?


BUT WHO KNOWS HOW MANY COINS YOU'LL NEED FOR FUTURE TRIALS?
...IF YOU WANT TO DRY YOUR CLOTHES AND BUY A TOWEL.
IN THAT CASE, YOU WILL NEED AT LEAST TWO COINS.

UGH.
WHATEVER. I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, KANAKO/ MIYAMAE... CHAN/SAN/KUN!
other words...

HA HA... HA HA HA...
IT SEEMS THAT YOU NEED THREE COINS TO BUY A TOWEL.
Oh?

JINGLE

NICE WORK, KANAKO-CHAN! WE GOT A WHOLE TON OF COINS NOW!
WOO HO... YAY...
AND ALL I HAD TO DO WAS BOIL MYSELF... HA HA HA...
AT ANY RATE, WE'VE CLEARED THE FIRST TRIAL WITHOUT A HITCH.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ON THE NEXT ONE, KANAKO-KUN!
THE SECOND TRIAL
WHATEVER. HERE GOES NOTHING.
KA-CHAK
I, MIYAMAE KANAKO, THE RINGLEADER, AM OPENING THE DOOR. (ARE YOU HAPPY, YUZURU-SAN?)
I HOPE IT'S A TRAP THAT PUTS ME OUT OF MY MISERY.
WHAT THE...?

A SLOT MACHINE?!

I'LL READ THE DESCRIPTION.

"THE SECOND TRIAL: SHE WILL COME SLOT MACHINE."

OOF.

WHO WILL COME?! WHAT? WHERE? HOW?

"1: INSERT COIN."

"2: PULL THE LEVER."

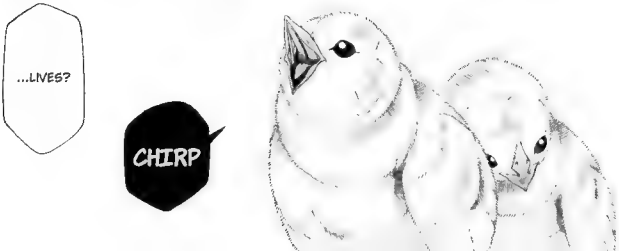
"3: SHE WILL COME."

NOT MUCH OF A TRIAL THEN, HUH?!

WELL, NO HARM IN TRYING, RIGHT?
INSERT A COIN, KANAKO-SAN.
WHAT? ME AGAIN?!
YES, JUST IN CASE.
DARK THOUGHTS! THOSE ARE DARK THOUGHTS, YUZURU-SAN!
ALL RIGHT, KANAKO-KUN! MAKE HER COME!
YOU'RE GETTING WAY TOO INTO THIS, RYUKEN-SAMA.
WHATEVER. BEST NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
CLINK
CA-KONG
KA-CHUNG
KA-CHUNG
KA-CHUNG
BUMMER.
NOT A SINGLE MATCH.
DID I LOSE?
KANAKO-CHAN?!
KLONK
FUGYYAAAAH!!

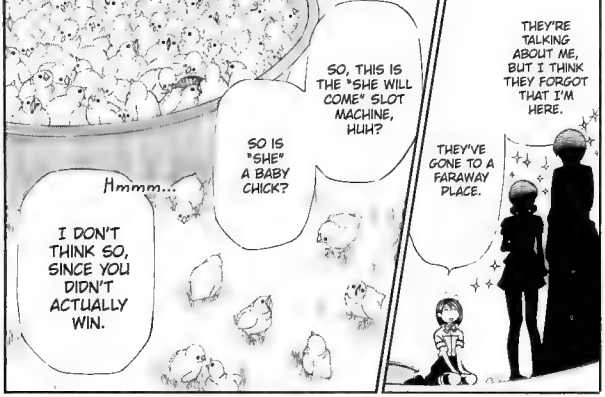
KANAKO-CHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
A COMMON PROP FOR SLAPSTICK COMEDY.
A METAL BASIN?!
.....

ISHIMA-SENPAI!! WHY DIDN'T YOU WHIP OUT THAT SWORD OF YOURS TO SAVE HER?!
I COULD HAVE, MOMOI SACHI-KUN.
BUT I WAS INCAPABLE OF SACRIFICING SUCH YOUNG AND INNOCENT LIVES.
INNOCENT ...

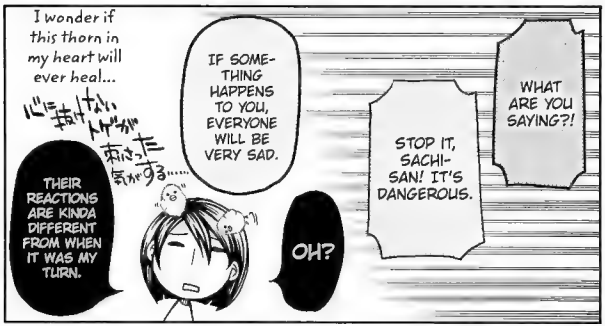

...LIVES?
CHIRP

PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
Huh?!
BABY CHICKS?!
WHY IS THE METAL BASIN FILLED WITH BABY CHICKS?!
Hmm... THIS IS SO CUTE THAT IT HAS BECOME GROSS.

I'M SORRY, SENPAI.
I HAD NO IDEA. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO QUICK TO JUDGE YOU.
PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE, MOMOI-KUN.
YOU WERE JUST CONCERNED ABOUT KANAKO-KUN'S WELFARE.
OH, ISHIMA-SENPAI...
YOU HAVE SUCH A KIND HEART.


THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME, BUT I THINK THEY FORGOT THAT I'M HERE.
THEY'VE GONE TO A FARAWAY PLACE.
SO, THIS IS THE "SHE WILL COME" SLOT MACHINE, HUH?
SO IS "SHE" A BABY CHICK?
Hmmm...
I DON'T THINK SO, SINCE YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY WIN.

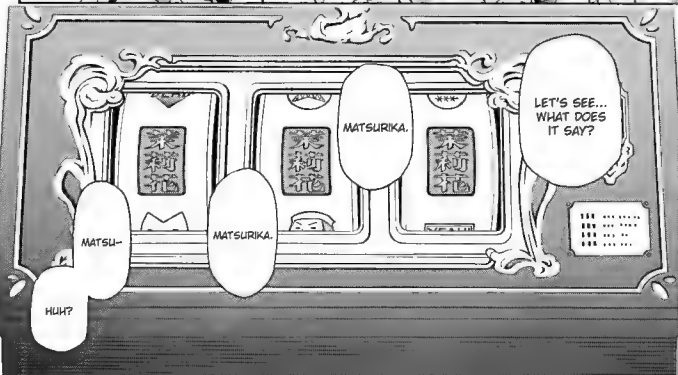
I'LL GO NEXT.
LET'S TRY AGAIN.
GULP

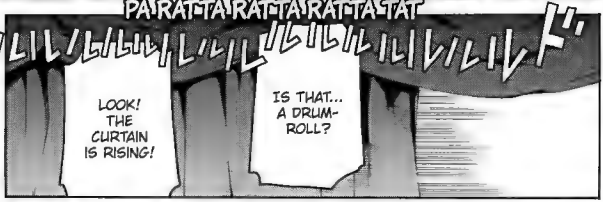

I wonder if this thorn in my heart will ever heal...
THEIR REACTIONS ARE KINDA DIFFERENT FROM WHEN IT WAS MY TURN.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU, EVERYONE WILL BE VERY SAD.
OH?
STOP IT, SACHI-SAN! IT'S DANGEROUS.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

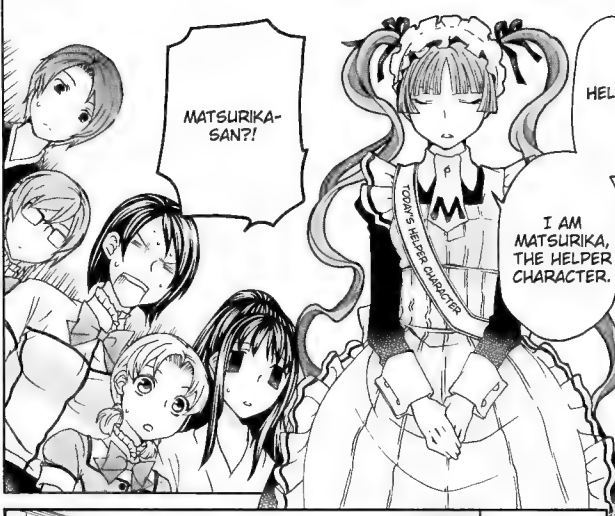
WHETHER IT'S KANAKO-CHAN, OR ME...
...WE ALL FACE THE DANGER TOGETHER!
BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE FINE!
I'M A LOT STURDIER THAN I LOOK!
SACHI-SAN...
CAN I DO IT? CAN I CUT THE BASIN WITHOUT HARMING THE CHICKS...?
MUMBLE
NO MATTER! FOR MOMOI-KUN'S SAKE, I HAVE TO TRY!
MUMBLE
WOW, SO RYUKEN-SAMA IS ACTUALLY GOING TO HELP THIS TIME?
STILL, IF YOU KNOW IT'S COMING, YOU CAN PROBABLY GET OUT OF THE WAY.
It's just a basin...
NOW ...
HERE I GO!!

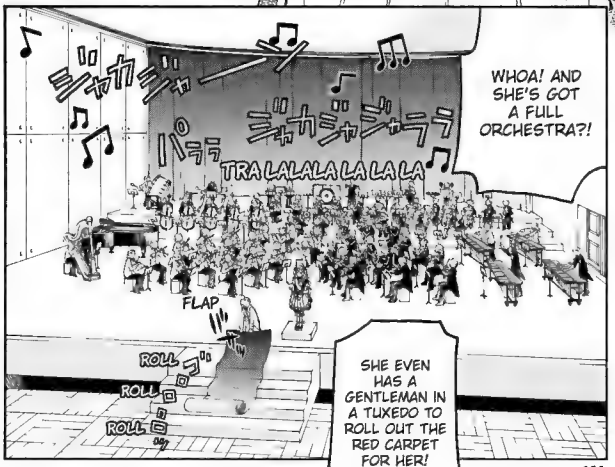
SLOT
TING
TING
KA-CHING
GA-KONG
CLINK
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM

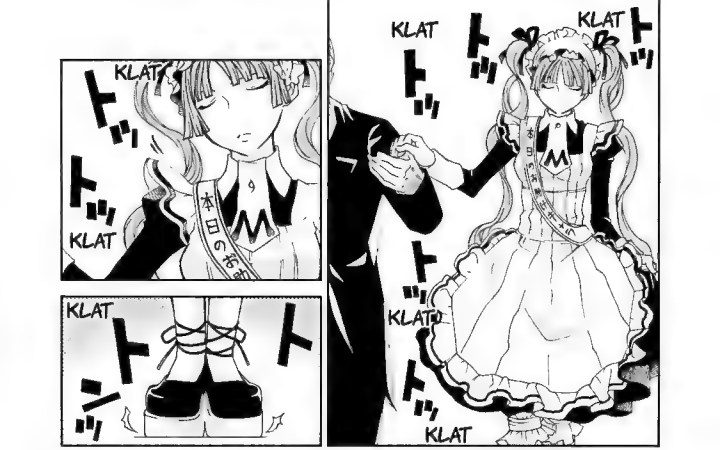
WOW, SACHI-SAN, YOU'RE...
UGH... I CAN'T SAY IT. TOO DEPRESSED...
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!
YOU'RE AMAZING, SACHI-SAN!
WOO HOO! THREE OF A KIND!
MEWPOOF


LET'S SEE... WHAT DOES IT SAY?
MATSURIKA.
MATSURIKA.
MATSU-
HUH?

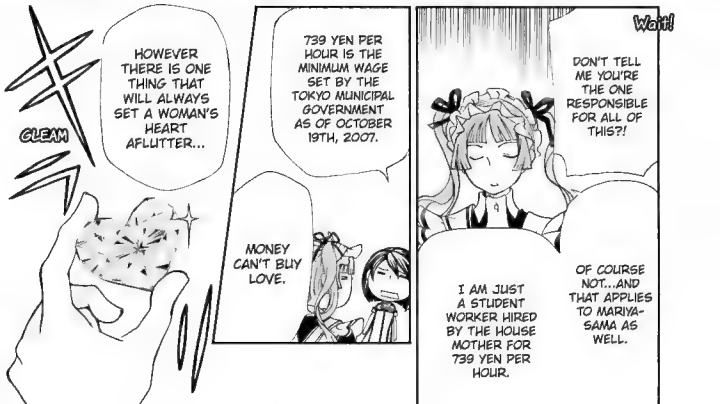

PA'RAT-TA'RAT-TA'RAT-TA-TAT
パパパパ

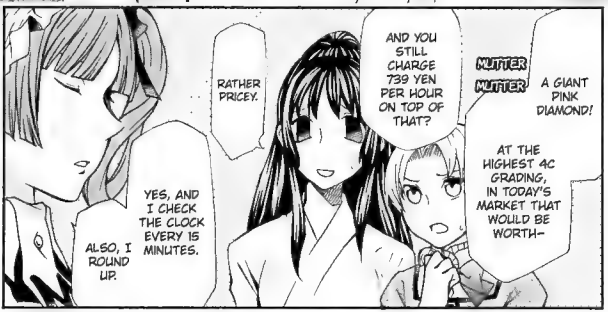

HELLO.
I AM MATSURIKA, THE HELPER CHARACTER.
TODAY'S HELPER CHARACTER
MATSURIKA-SAN?!


WHOA! AND SHE'S GOT A FULL ORCHESTRA?!
TRA LALALA LA LA LA
FLAP
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
SHE EVEN HAS A GENTLEMAN IN A TUXEDO TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR HER!


KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
KLAT

I MEAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
UH... YEAH. YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.
I'M MATSURIKA, THE HELPER CHARACTER.
HELLO.

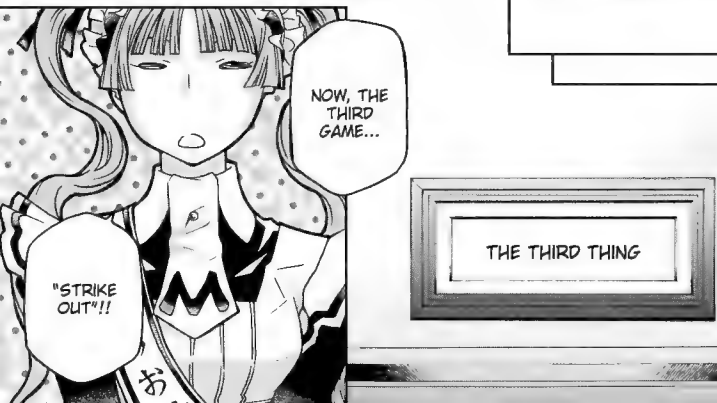

GLEAM
HOWEVER THERE IS ONE THING THAT WILL ALWAYS SET A WOMAN'S HEART AFLUTTER...
739 YEN PER HOUR IS THE MINIMUM WAGE SET BY THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AS OF OCTOBER 19TH, 2007.
MONEY CAN'T BUY LOVE.
Wait!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS?!
I AM JUST A STUDENT WORKER HIRED BY THE HOUSE MOTHER FOR 739 YEN PER HOUR.
OF COURSE NOT...AND THAT APPLIES TO MARIYA-SAMA AS WELL.


MUTTER MUTTER
A GIANT PINK DIAMOND!
AT THE HIGHEST 4C GRADING, IN TODAY'S MARKET THAT WOULD BE WORTH-
AND YOU STILL CHARGE 739 YEN PER HOUR ON TOP OF THAT?
RATHER PRICEY.
YES, AND I CHECK THE CLOCK EVERY 15 MINUTES.
ALSO, I ROUND UP.

4CS ARE WHAT DETERMINE THE QUALITY AND VALUE OF A DIAMOND—CARAT, COLOR, CLARITY AND CUT.

BY THE WAY, BOYS AND GIRLS ...
I RECOMMEND TURNING YOUR PROFITS INTO PRECIOUS METALS AND JEWELS TO AVOID PAYING THE GIFT TAX.
DON'T GIVE PEOPLE FINANCIAL PLANNING ADVICE LIKE THAT!
BY THE WAY, THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR TAX EVASION IS SEVEN YEARS (IN JAPAN).
HA HA
はは……
LET'S JUST GO BEFORE SOMEONE GETS AUDITED.

BY THE WAY, WITH THAT HOT BATH...
I WOULD HAVE DRAINED THE HOT WATER BEFORE I GOT INTO THE TUB.
OR ADDED COLD WATER FROM THE OTHER TUB AND ENJOYED A RELAXING BATH.
AAAH!!
あぁ〜


NOW, THE THIRD GAME...
THE THIRD THING
"STRIKE OUT"!!

OOPS. I MEAN "THE THIRD TRAP TRIAL."
IT'S TOO LATE TO CORRECT IT NOW!
WHAT HAPPENED TO "TRIAL" OR "TRAP" OR SOMETHING MORE HARDCORE?!
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING IT A "GAME"?!

WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE COMMEN-TATOR, RYUKEN-SAMA?
HUH?
"STRIKE OUT" IS A GAME WHERE YOU THROW A BALL AT A TARGET WITHIN NINE PANELS.
LET ME EXPLAIN.

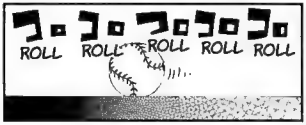
BOW ペコ
THANK YOU FOR THE EXPLANATION, ISHIMA-SAMA.
TODAY'S HELPER CHARACTER
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
YOU GET 12 BALLS.
MOST PEOPLE TEND TO HIT TWO TO SIX PANELS.

BY THE WAY, GOD HAS SUGGESTED THAT YOU USE QUICK-MOTION PITCHES.
HUH?! GOD?
W-WAIT A SEC...
DO YOU MEAN THAT THE HOUSE MOTHER IS IN CHARGE OF ALL THIS?
HOUSE MOTHER? WHY, WHATEVER COULD YOU MEAN?
THESE ARE ALL INSTRUCTIONS FROM ######.
WHATEVER.
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "QUICK-MOTION PITCH"?
HUH?!
IT MEANS, "DON'T BE A DOOFUS AND HURRY UP."
SHE MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD TOSS IT LIKE YOU'RE TOSSING BETWEEN BASES...WITH NO WINDUP.
THAT MAKES THINGS MORE DIFFICULT, ACTUALLY.
YES, IT WILL BE A BITTER FIGHT, FOR CERTAIN.
ZSSH
HENCE, THIS BATTLE ...

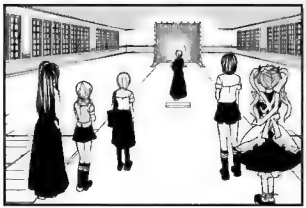
...SHALL BE MINE!
RYUKEN-SAMA!
IT'S ONE COIN PER PLAY.
OH, YOU NEED A COIN HERE, TOO?
KA-CHING!
チャリーン
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
PAPT
VISUALIZE...
PHEEEW
VIZUALIZE, THEN PITCH, RYUKEN...

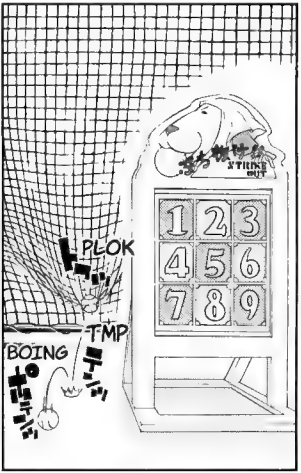
IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, ONE OUT AND THE SCORE IS TIED. A DEAD HEAT.
THE RUNNER ON FIRST IS FAST.
THEY MIGHT GO FOR A BUNT...
...BUT THEIR COACH IS A REAL RISK-TAKER.
NO! THIS IS IT! THEY'RE GOING FOR THE STEAL!
GLARE
I WON'T ALLOW IT!

WOW, NICE PITCH!
THWAP
スポ


ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL

STOP




1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
PLOK
TMP
BOING

ぶうぶけ!!
STRIKE OUT
1 2 3
4 5 6
NOT A SINGLE BALL HIT THE PANEL.
YOU MEAN ...
...SHE KEPT AIMING FOR THE CORNER-MAN?
盗塁
He goes for the steal!
And he's out!
許すまじ。
Cornerman A.K.A: First base
一塁側
Touch!
I BELIEVE THE FIRST THROW WAS TO STOP THE RUNNER (IN HER MIND) FROM STEALING A BASE.
REGARD-LESS, SHE HAS YET TO HIT THE PANEL.
SWIFF
I SAW THE IMAGE OF THE CATCHER MYSELF. IT WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR.
YES. AND THE SECOND AND THIRD THROWS WERE AS THE CATCHER INDICATED.
BUT THEY WERE ALL SINKERS, NARROWLY MISSING THE STRIKE ZONE.
Teh!
ONE MORE TIME!!

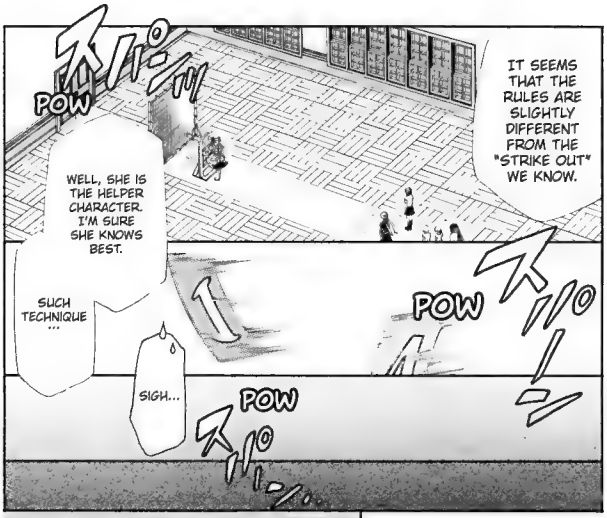
NYOOOOM
ギュルルルルルル
TWHAP
ドゥ!!
STRIKE OUT
1 2 3
4 5 6
ROLL
ROLL
SIGH...
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
WE'VE ALREADY WASTED HALF OF THE BALLS...
What?!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HIT NINE PANELS WITH ONLY SIX BALLS?!

KLAT
Eeep!
NO, RYUKEN-SAMA! STOP POURING SALT ON MY WOUNDS!
HAVE NO FEAR! IF I HIT TWO PANELS WITH EACH BALL, THEN ALL I NEED ARE FIVE BALLS TO HIT THEM ALL.
I SHALL CARRY OUT MY DUTY WITHOUT HESITATION!
SIGH... I CAN'T STAND BY AND WATCH THIS ANY MORE.
HUH?
YES OR NO?
WILL YOU SUMMON HER?
IT COSTS TEN COINS TO SUMMON THE HELPER CHARACTER.
MATSURIKA-SAN?
SWIFF
KACHING!
COMMAND INPUT CONFIRMED.
I SUMMON HER.
OH, WHO CARES ...
GRAAAH
WILL YOU SUMMON THE HELPER CHARACTER?!
YES OR YES?!
HUH? I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ANYMORE?
YES.

BY SACRIFICING TEN COINS AND ONE FUKUZAWA YUKICHI, MATSURIKA HAS BEEN SUMMONED.
YUKICHI? WHAT?
AH! YOU MEAN THE GUY ON THE 10,000 YEN BILL?! CAND HOW DID YOU GET MY WALLET?!)

HERE I GO.
STEP
UM...I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHERE THE PITCHER BELONGS, MATSURIKA.
MATSURIKA STEPS UP TO THE PLATE.
HUH?!
TUP

POP
POP
POP
WHAAAAT?!
SO FAST! THREE PITCHES IN ONE SECOND!
SUCH SMOOTH AND DECISIVE MOVEMENTS!
LIKE A SWAN...!
YES! I CAN SEE ITS WHITE WINGS ENCIRCLING HER NOW!
HUH ?!
I MEAN, ISN'T THAT CHEATING?!
IS THAT OKAY?!


POW
IT SEEMS THAT THE RULES ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE "STRIKE OUT" WE KNOW.
WELL, SHE IS THE HELPER CHARACTER. I'M SURE SHE KNOWS BEST.
SUCH TECHNIQUE ...
SIGH...
POW
POW

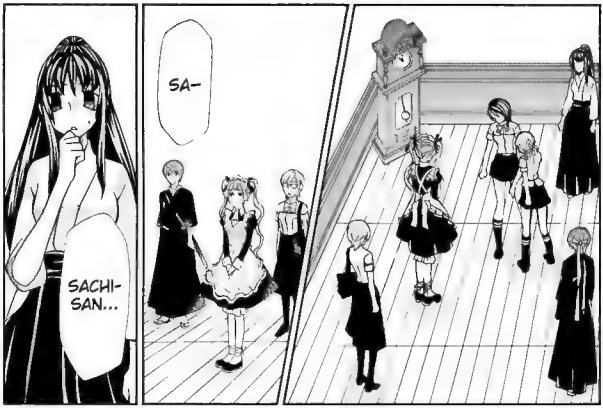
VRRRRRR

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
THE FLOOR IS MOVING?
VRRRRRR
IT'S LIKE A TREAD-MILL.
AN INCREDIBLY FAST ONE.
BZZAK
BZZAK
VRRRR
H-HEY, IS IT JUST ME, OR IS IT SPARKING?
MATSURIKA-SAN, IS THIS-
YES, IT'S THE FOURTH AMUSEMENT.
"THE SUPER-FAST TREADMILL."
WHAT'S WITH THE SUPER-BORING NAME?!
And did you just say "Amusement"?
...
SORRY. THE FOURTH ATTRACTION, "THE SUPER-"
VRRRR
IT'S TOO LATE NOW. JUST FORGET IT.

AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE TO CLEAR THIS TO PASS, RIGHT?
HERE I GO!
NO!
WAIT, KANAKO-SAN!
DASH
DASH
DASH
SKID
RAMBO!
ZWONK
KANAKO-CHAN?!

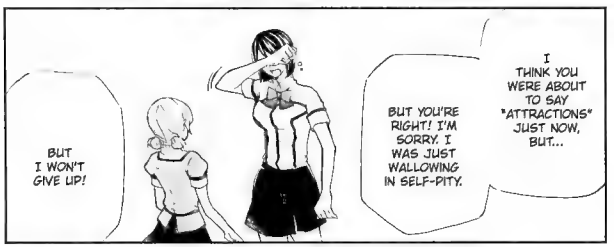
MA-
MAYBE I WAS A BIT HASTY...
MATSURIKA-SAN, PLEASE. THE HELPER CHARACTER FOR TEN COINS.
KA-CHING
SO WEAK-WILLED...
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
JUST LOOK AT THE TIME!
I'M SORRY, KANAKO-SAN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT ON YOUR OWN.
BOOONG
BOOONG
AS YOU WISH.
FOR 20 COINS AND TWO YUKICHIS...
TODAY'S HELPER
OH?
EH?
I'M AFRAID MY SHIFT HAS ENDED.
I DON'T GET PAID OVERTIME, SO I MUST LEAVE.

NOOOO!
I CAN'T WIN THESE STUPID GAMES WITHOUT MATSURIKA-SAN TO HELP ME!!
SLAP


SACHI-SAN...
SA-

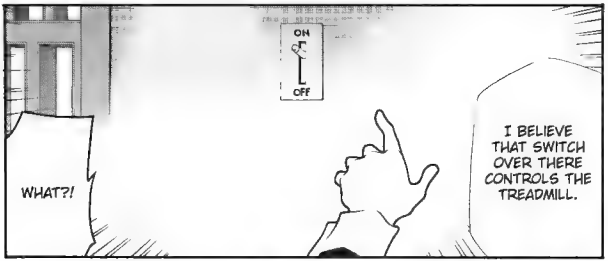
KANAKO-CHAN, WHY DID YOU COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
UH?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO HONOR YOUR MOTHER'S MEMORY?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO PASS THE SAME TRIALS THAT YOUR PARENTS DID SO YOU COULD SHARE IN THEIR EXPERIENCE?
BUT THEN YOU JUST GIVE UP AND TRY TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHEAT TO CLEAR THE GAME!
THE MANUFAC-TURERS ADJUST THE BALANCE OF THE GAME SO THAT CASUALS CAN WIN, TOO!

B-BUT CAN'T I JUST PUT IN A CHEAT CODE OR SOMETHING?
Like, for unlimited lives?
CHEAT CODES ARE NOTHING BUT SLOPPY PROGRAMMING!
THE DEVELOPERS KEEP THEM IN SO THAT THEY CAN DO QUALITY TESTING WITHOUT ALL THE HASSLE!
LET'S JUST TRY A LITTLE HARDER, OKAY?
WE'RE ALL HERE FOR YOU, KANAKO-CHAN!
LET'S GET THROUGH ALL THESE ATTRACT-
THESE TRIALS TOGETHER!
SACHI-SAN...

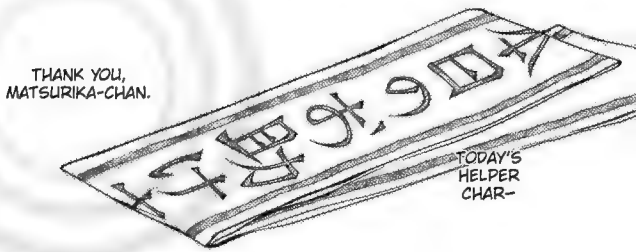

I THINK YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY "ATTRACTIONS" JUST NOW, BUT...
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST WALLOWING IN SELF-PITY.
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP!

DASH
KANAKO-CHAN?!
JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH!

NOW, I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE.
DWUMP-
ドリ
STEPHANE MALLARME!!
NOOOO! KANAKO-CHAN!
CRASH
ワシャアッ
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU HAVE TO RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS.
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU, KANAKO-SAMA.
HELPER MATSURIKA-CHAN...
RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST MATSURIKA.
HOWEVER, I SHALL LEAVE YOU WITH ONE PIECE OF ADVICE... AS A HELPER CHARACTER.


ON
OFF
I BELIEVE THAT SWITCH OVER THERE CONTROLS THE TREADMILL.
WHAT?!

BA-CONK
RILKE!
WHOA! YOUR ELBOW ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BEND THAT WAY!
AH...
I WISH YOU LUCK IN THE ONCOMING BATTLE.


THANK YOU, MATSURIKA-CHAN.
TODAY'S HELPER CHAR-

...BUT THE TRIALS WENT ON ALL THE SAME.
HAVING LOST THE HELPER CHARACTER, WE WERE LACKING IN MANPOWER...
WE TRUDGED THROUGH ONE OBVIOUS PARODY AFTER ANOTHER, AND THEN...
WE RODE IN A RIDICULOUS VEHICLE FASHIONED LIKE A TANK AND GOT SOAKING WET.
WE CLIMBED UP A SLIPPERY HILL AND CROSSED A HANGING BRIDGE WHILE DODGING VOLLEYBALLS.
FLASH
YOU FINALLY MADE IT. CONGRATULATIONS.

THE LAST BOSS...
...HAS COMETH!!
BEHIND ME ARE THE GREAT DOORS THAT LEAD TO THE COURTYAAAAARD.

GOD IS HUNGRY FOR SOME STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU!
HOWEVER...
BWEE!

I PREFER WHITE BEAN PASTE, BUT GOD CAN'T BE TOO PICKY ABOUT HER OFFERINGS.
SO COME, COME!
HUH?
YOU KNOOOOOW. THE JAPANESE CONFECTION WITH A STRAWBERRY INSIDE SWEET BEAN PASTE INSIDE MOCHI?

MEW POOF!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU ON A HOT SUMMER DAY?
DON'T WORRY, KANAKO-CHAN!
I HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME.
WHAT?!
Y-YOU'RE STEALING MY IDENTITY!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
I MADE SOME TO SHARE WITH YOU ALL.
FORTUNATELY, I MADE EXTRA...SO WE CAN SHARE WITH THE CAT-EARED YOUNG LADY AS WELL.
HOW NICE OF YOU TO CALL ME A YOUNG LADY...
BUT FLATTERY WON'T GET YOU AAAAANYWHERE.
OH?
KA-TING

DEAR, OH DEAR.
IT SEEMS I DROPPED THE KEY TO THE COURTYARD.
I CERTAINLY HOPE NO ONE PICKS IT UP AND MISUSES IT.
OF COURSE, GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS, EVEN IF SHE'S NOT WAAAATCHING.
THANK YOU, CAT-EARED YOUNG LADY.
GOD HAS DONE NOTHING. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THANKS.
BUT THE WAY, NEXT TIME, I SUGGEST ADDING...
..."CUTE" BEFORE "YOUNG LADY."

NOW THEN, SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA WITH OUR STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU?
CAT-EARED YOUNG LADY...
UH.
THAT'S OUR HOUSE MOTHER, ACTUALLY.
LET'S GO, YONEKUNI-SAN.
HYAN!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MIYAMAE-SAN?
HUMANS DO NOT HAVE CAT EARS.
SHE MUST BE A FAIRY.
Wow...
KIRI-SAN'S GOTTEN STUPID.
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER MEET THAT FAIRY AGAIN...
IT SEEMS THAT ALL THESE TRIALS HAVE LEFT HER MIND IN SHAMBLES.
FORTU-NATELY, THIS IS THE END.
COME, KIRI-KUN. UNLOCK THE DOOR.
THE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON!

Uh...
RYUKEN-SAMA...?
I KINDA WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO SAY THAT...
KA-CHAK
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
AH... NEVER MIND.
KREEEE
THE DOOR TO THE COURTYARD FINALLY OPENED.

THIS IS...
..THE LEGENDARY MAGNOLIA?
SHFF
WELCOME. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
MARIYA?!

COUGH IT UP! ALL THOSE STUPID ATTRACTIONS WERE YOUR DOING, WEREN'T THEY?
KANAKO-SAN SAYS THE DARNDEST THINGS, DOESN'T SHE?
QUITE.
WE THINK WE'VE CLEARED ALL THE STAGES, AND THEN WE GET HIT WITH A HIDDEN BOSS!
AND MATSURIKA, THE EX-HELPER, TOO.
NO WONDER THE LAST BOSS WAS SO EASY.
"HE"!!
GULP

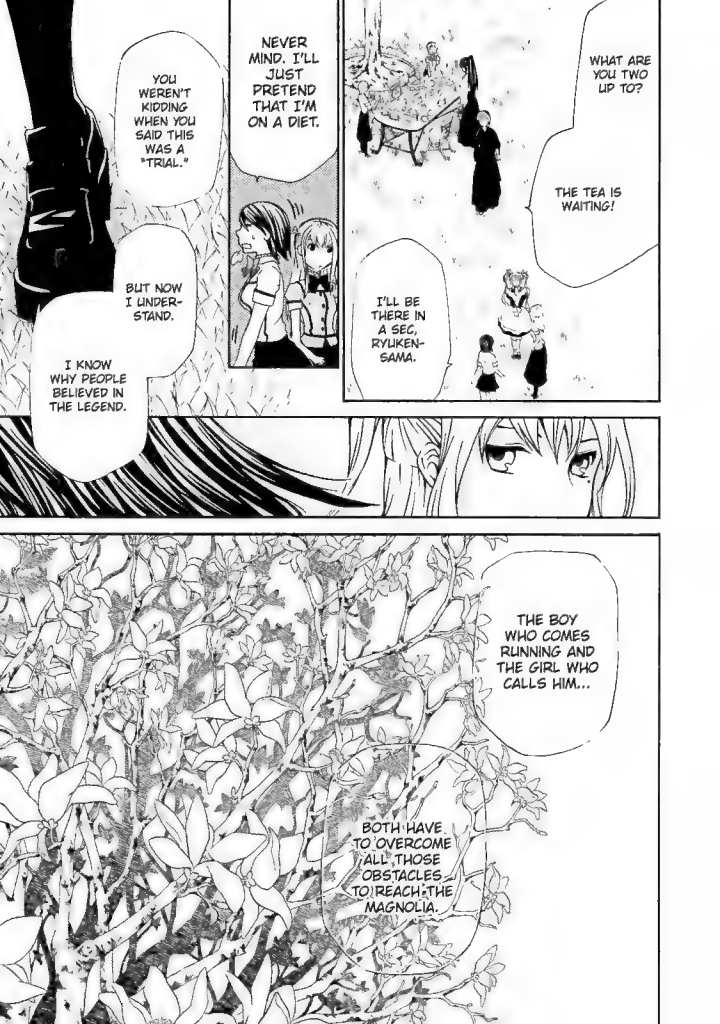
IN ANY CASE, YOU ALL MUST BE VERY TIRED.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

I'VE BROUGHT A LIGHT LUNCH AND PLENTY OF SWEETS.
I HOPE YOU'LL LIKE THEM.
MUCH OBLIGED, SHIDOU-KUN.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT IT WOULD BE NICE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A SNACK.
HOW CONSID-ERATE OF YOU!
I WONDER IF THERE'S ROOM FOR MY STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU?

HEY, BENCH-WARMER!
NYEH?!

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR.
I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN DORM ONE TODAY.
WHAT...?

THAT MEANS SHE WAITED AN HOUR AND 45 MINUTES FOR US IN THE SLOT MACHINE ROOM.
SHE WAS ONLY WITH US FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES, THOUGH...
THAT WOULD BE TWO HOURS' WORTH...
1,478 YEN?
WELL, THAT...AND A HUGE PINK DIAMOND.
THE ONLY THING I SAW WAS MATSURIKA'S ENVELOPE WITH 1,478 YEN IN IT.
AS FOR HOW SHE GOT IT...I HAVEN'T A CLUE.
OH YEAH, SHE HAD A YUKICHI IN THERE TOO.
THAT'S MY LUNCH MONEY FOR THE MONTH!
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL HELPER, MATSURIKA-SAN...


WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO?
THE TEA IS WAITING!
I'LL BE THERE IN A SEC, RYUKEN-SAMA.
NEVER MIND. I'LL JUST PRETEND THAT I'M ON A DIET.
YOU WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID THIS WAS A "TRIAL."
BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND.
I KNOW WHY PEOPLE BELIEVED IN THE LEGEND.
THE BOY WHO COMES RUNNING AND THE GIRL WHO CALLS HIM...
BOTH HAVE TO OVERCOME ALL THOSE OBSTACLES TO REACH THE MAGNOLIA.

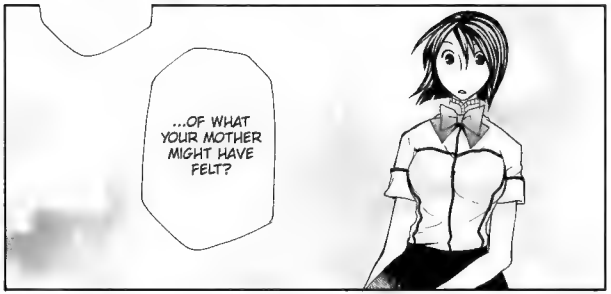
IF THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER...
...THEY WOULD TURN BACK BEFORE THEY MADE IT HERE.

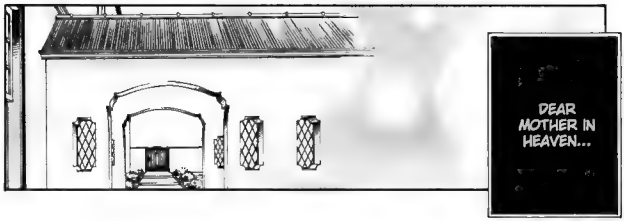
YES. THE LOVERS WHO COME HERE...
...DO SO KNOWING THE DANGERS INVOLVED.
IN ORDER TO PROVE THEIR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, THEY DON'T USE THE EMERGENCY EXIT.
IF THEY LOVE EACH OTHER THAT MUCH, I'M SURE THEY'LL BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.
EVEN IF IT'S NOT REALLY "FOREVER."

GA ☆ TE
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME ABOUT THIS?!
WHAT?!
YEAH, THEY DON'T USE THE EMERGENCY-

TEE HEE!
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT DORM ONE USED TO BE A GUESTHOUSE FOR VISITORS.
WHA...
SO OF COURSE THE BUILDING HAS TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY EXIT TO MEET THE FIRE AND BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS.
WHA...
YOU MEAN I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THOSE TRIALS?
1 sec.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
I WONDERED WHY YOU WANTED TO GO THROUGH THE FRONT.
HUH?
ME, TOO.
NORMALLY, WE WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER GOING IN THE FRONT. WHY WOULD WE?
BUT WE ALL DECIDED THAT WE WOULD BAND TOGETHER FOR YOU, KANAKO-CHAN.
SINCE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED.
I WAS A BIT CURIOUS ABOUT THE TRIALS...
...SO I PLAYED ALONG.
EH...
AH...
UH...

EH?
IT'S YOUR FAULT. I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT NEEDLESS PAIN BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU TOLD ME...
WHAT A WASTE!
YOU MEAN I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT?!
WHISPER.
WHISPER.
BUT AREN'T YOU GLAD?
DIDN'T YOU GET A GLIMPSE...


...OF WHAT YOUR MOTHER MIGHT HAVE FELT?


DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...

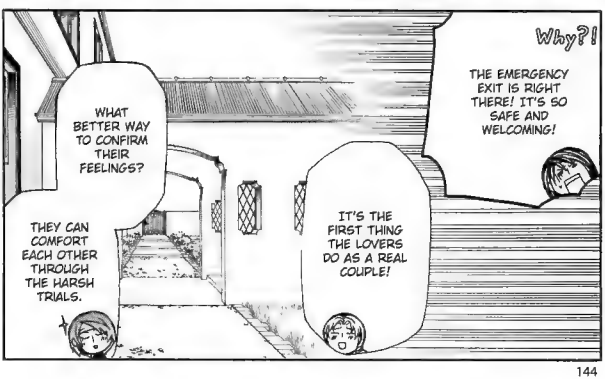
DEAR MOTHER WHOSE MEMORY IS VAGUE SINCE YOU DIED WHEN I WAS SO YOUNG...

I CAN SEE YOU WAITING UNDER THE TREE IN YOUR AME NO KISAKI UNIFORM.

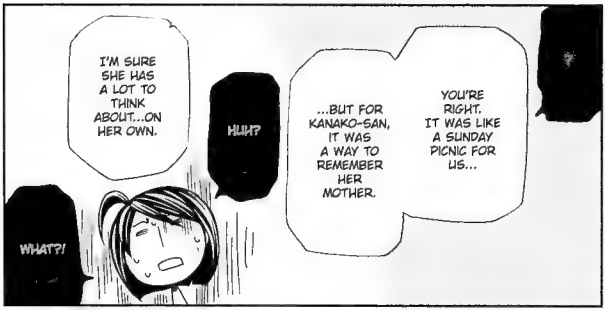
HAVING OVERCOME THE ARDUOUS TRIALS...

...I CAN SEE YOU WAITING FOR DAD... YOUR HEART BEATING FAST AND YOUR THOUGHTS FILLED WITH HOPE.

WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE OBSTACLES ON THE WAY OUT, TOO.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO COMPLETE THE TRIAL.
BEAM
OKAY, THEN. BETTER GO BACK THE WAY YOU CAME FROM!!


Why?!
THE EMERGENCY EXIT IS RIGHT THERE! IT'S SO SAFE AND WELCOMING!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO CONFIRM THEIR FEELINGS?
IT'S THE FIRST THING THE LOVERS DO AS A REAL COUPLE!
THEY CAN COMFORT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE HARSH TRIALS.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ROMANTIC? FORMING AN UNBREAKABLE BOND OF TRUST...
NOW KANAKO-SAN CAN GO BACK THE WAY THEY DID...
...TO RELIVE THE MEMORY OF THEIR LOVE.
ALL BY HERSELF.
Whaaaat?!
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
YOU CAN'T, KANAKO-CHAN! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
SACHI-SAN!!
EH??
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I GUESS WE SHOULDN'T GET IN YOUR WAY.
HAVING ALL OF US AROUND MAKING A FUSS OVER EVERYTHING WILL RUIN THE ROMANTIC ATMOSPHERE.


I'M SURE SHE HAS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT...ON HER OWN.
HUH?
...BUT FOR KANAKO-SAN, IT WAS A WAY TO REMEMBER HER MOTHER.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WAS LIKE A SUNDAY PICNIC FOR US...
WHAT?!

GOOD LUCK!
KANAKO-KUN...
MIYAMAE-SAN...
KANAKO-CHAN...
KANAKO-SAN...
URRGGH...
URGGH...

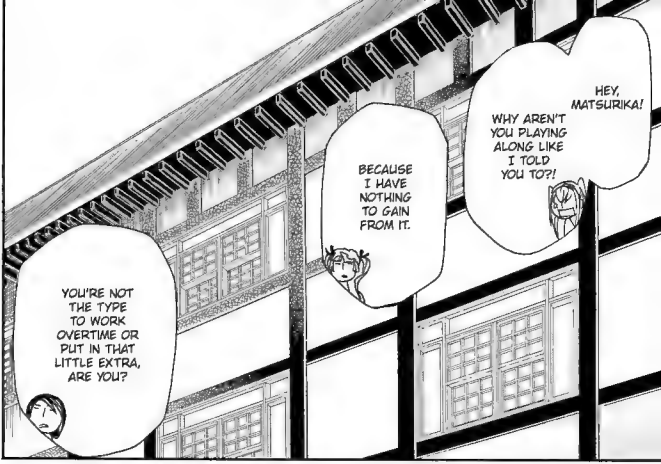
CREEEAK
I CAN'T DO THIS! I CAN'T!!
WAIT!! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
CHALLENGER NUMBER ONE FOR THE GIRLS' DORM WHIRLWIND...
YOUR TRIAL AWAAAAAITS YOU.

THE END

MARIA HOLIC

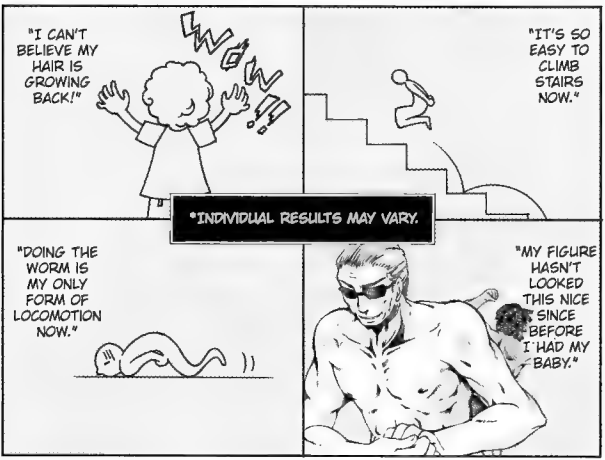
MARIA HOLIC

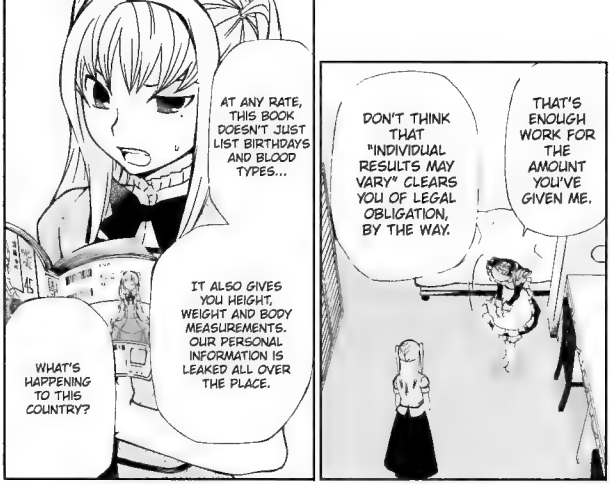
Spin-Out
The Tale of Promoting
Volume 4.5
稲森弓弦
INAMORI YUZURU
HO HO...YUZURU-SAN IS MORE GENEROUSLY ENDOWED THAN SHE SEEMS!
OOH, LET'S SEE IF IT SHOWS HONOKA-SAN'S THREE MEASUREMENTS!
OH MY, KANAKO-SAN!
WHATEVER SORT OF WONDERFUL (PERVERSE) LITERATURE COULD YOU BE READING?
THANKS FOR ASKING, MARIYA!
THIS IS MARIAHOLIC 4.5, CURRENTLY ON SALE (IN JAPAN)!
OH, THE HIGHLY PRAISED FAN BOOK THAT IS NOW AVALIABLE?
THAT MARIAHOLIC 4.5?!
THIS IS SO FORCED I COULD VOMIT.


HEY, MATSURIKA! WHY AREN'T YOU PLAYING ALONG LIKE I TOLD YOU TO?!
BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM IT.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO WORK OVERTIME OR PUT IN THAT LITTLE EXTRA, ARE YOU?

HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
I give up.
ぐったり…
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, MATSURIKA.
PLUNK
?

NOT CONVINCED?
JUST LISTEN TO THESE TESTIMONIALS FROM REAL BUYERS!
MARIA HOLIC
45

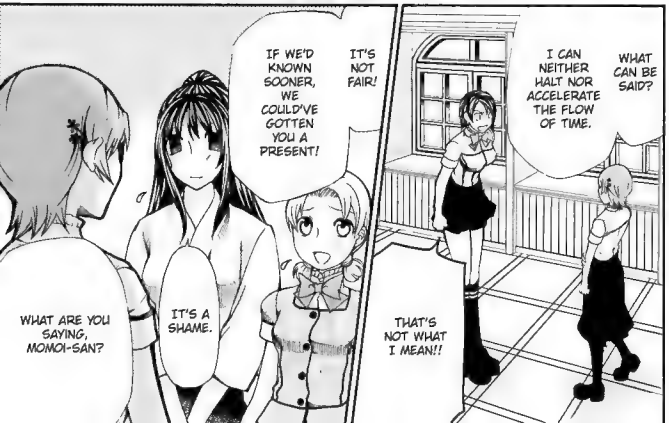

"I CAN'T BELIEVE MY HAIR IS GROWING BACK!"
"IT'S SO EASY TO CLIMB STAIRS NOW."
*INDIVIDUAL RESULTS MAY VARY.
"DOING THE WORM IS MY ONLY FORM OF LOCOMOTION NOW."
"MY FIGURE HASN'T LOOKED THIS NICE SINCE BEFORE I HAD MY BABY."


AT ANY RATE, THIS BOOK DOESN'T JUST LIST BIRTHDAYS AND BLOOD TYPES...
IT ALSO GIVES YOU HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BODY MEASUREMENTS. OUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS LEAKED ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THIS COUNTRY?
THAT'S ENOUGH WORK FOR THE AMOUNT YOU'VE GIVEN ME.
DON'T THINK THAT "INDIVIDUAL RESULTS MAY VARY" CLEARS YOU OF LEGAL OBLIGATION, BY THE WAY.

BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT NOW.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT TODAY WAS HER BIRTHDAY!
BESIDES, YOU JUST TRANSFERRED HERE, SO I'M SURE YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK FOR A GIFT
I'M SURE YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO SHOP EITHER. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL.
BIRTHDAY TRAGEDY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, INAMORI-SENPAI!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LEFT OUT, NOT INAMORI.
NO, THIS IS GOOD! NOW I CAN REMEMBER EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAYS!
FLIP
NO MORE TRAGEDIES LIKE LAST TIME!

?!

DATA APRIL 26TH BIRTHDAY 4/16 BOOD TYPE B


IF WE'D KNOWN SOONER, WE COULD'VE GOTTEN YOU A PRESENT!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MOMOI-SAN?
IT'S A SHAME.
I CAN NEITHER HALT NOR ACCELERATE THE FLOW OF TIME.
WHAT CAN BE SAID?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!

APRIL 16TH THIS YEAR WAS THE DAY THAT YOU AND I BECAME FRIENDS.
THAT WAS THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT I HAVE EVER RECEIVED.
NANAMI-CHAN...
SIGH
...ん
DOOOONG
DIIING
THE NEXT DAY, I BEFRIENDED INAMORI-SAN AS WELL.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD HAVE TWO FRIENDS.
YES, TWO...
ONLY TWO?! YOU MEAN YOU STILL DON'T CONSIDER ME YOUR FRIEND?!
MARIAHOLIC 4.5, NOW ON SALE!

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC
Volume 6

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Minari Endou

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